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Shas hedges on rejoining coalition

SARAH HONIG

SHAS is once more exasperating the coalition by remaining indecisive about exactly when it plans to re-enter the government.

According to the timetable established by Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, the party was to rejoin the coalition after Pessah. This led Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to expect that Shas would return to the government at the end of the week.

However, Shas informed him this would not happen, and that "at least one more week" would be needed. The fear in Rabin's office, as one senior Labor source put it, is "that this week could last longer than seven days."

The official reason for the delay is that Shas leader Aryeh Deri will be abroad for a few days. But within Shas, two other reasons are put forward, each of which could spell trouble for the coalition.

The more nettlesome involves a new kink discovered by Shas in the amendment to the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation, which the Knesset adopted just before its spring recess. The amendment was to prevent the import of non-kosher meat, and Shas made it an unequivocal precondition to its return to the coalition.

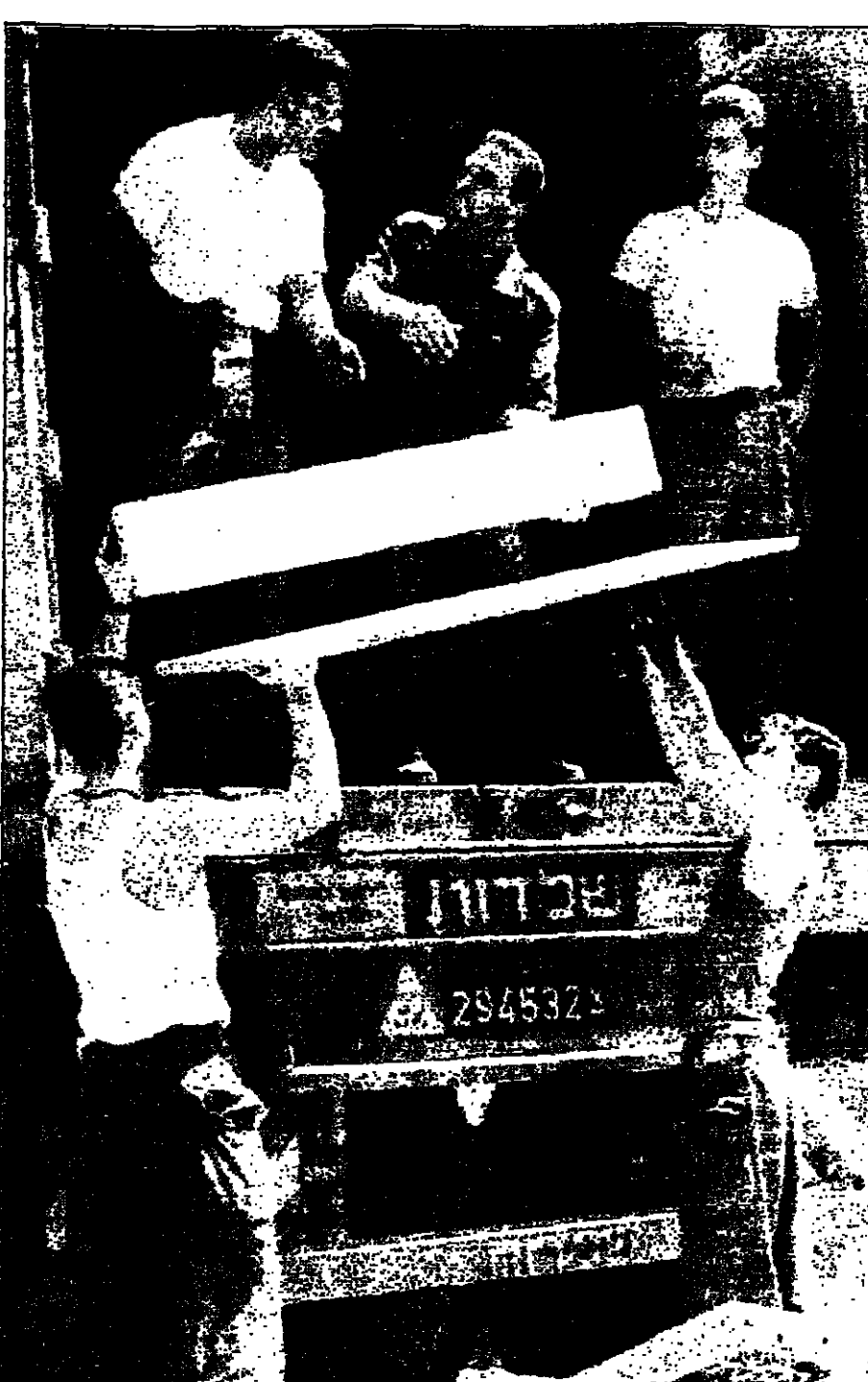
But Shas recently discovered that law committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz), at his own initiative, added a quote from Israel's Declaration of Independence: "Freedom of conscience and religion will be maintained."

This, it is claimed in Shas, infuriated Yosef to the point that he angrily lashed out at MK Yosef Azran, who was absent from the law committee session at which Zucker made the addition.

Yosef now demands that the offensive line be erased, if the government wants Shas back in the fold. Rabin, reportedly had been informed of the new snag and has messaged Yosef that he is also unhappy about Zucker's change and will pressure him to back down.

Yosef is said to have commented that the words added by Zucker "are far more sweeping and therefore worse than the entire proposed basic law: civil rights legislation," which he so hotly opposes.

The second problem is that Shas is still torn by rivalry over who will get what job. So deep is the (Continued on Page 2)



IDF troops load a truck as they dismantle the military government's headquarters in Deir el-Balah yesterday. Story Page 2 (AP)

PLO reneging on part of pact - IDF

Insists on freedom of movement for policemen, rigid withdrawal timetable

ALON PINKAS and DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE PLO is again demanding that Israel allow Palestinian police freedom of movement along the main arteries surrounding the three clusters of Jewish settlements in Gaza. This means PLO negotiators in Cairo have apparently reneged on an agreement reached by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres earlier this year, IDF sources confirmed last night.

There also seems to be a difference of approach on the timetable for withdrawal. The PLO is demanding a rigid, specific timetable, fearing that Israel may try to stall for time, while Israel has simply said re-employment would immediately follow any agreement reached.

The sources also confirmed there are differences over the entry of the Palestinian police force into Gaza. The Palestinians want a ceremonial march of about 300 armed policemen.

"We insist that they arrive in one group, unarmed, and only after their weapons are registered will they receive them," said an army source monitoring the negotiations.

However, chief PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath told reporters late last night that agreement had been reached regarding the Palestinian police. He said that the agreement now needed approval in Jerusalem and Tunis.

At yesterday's weekly cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin reportedly said it would take "almost a miracle" for an accord with the PLO to be reached by the end of next week, but insisted that once a deal was in place, Israel would be out of Gaza in the "within a few days."

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, who is involved in the negotiations, predicted a deal would be struck by the end of the month.

Rabin also said the delay is due to a variety of factors, ranging from lack of agreement on the economic principles that will guide the Israeli-Palestinian relationship in the future to more technical issues. Economic talks are scheduled to be held in Paris starting tomorrow.

He also said he is willing to allow 11 wanted fugitives, who escaped from Gaza to Egypt, to return. Twenty-two deportees are to return to Gaza and Jericho today. (See story, Page 2)

Rabin admitted that his assent to the deployment of international observers in Hebron was a "deviation from Oslo," but insisted there was little choice. Speaking after security officials said Arafat's standing in the territories is being eroded, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Israel should do what is reasonable to help him.

In discussing the security situation in Hebron, Meretz ministers complained that settlers should have been removed from the city, but did not challenge Rabin to do so. Rabin repeated his insistence that no settlements would be moved "at this time."

Meanwhile, the IDF and the civil administration have all but completed final preparations for the evacuation of installations in Jericho and much of the Gaza Strip in anticipation of the arrival of the first group of Palestinian policemen.

The first Palestinian policemen arriving in Gaza will take over the city's police headquarters, and (Continued on Page 2)

Oman postpones Israeli team visit 'NII wasted NIS 1m. in rental deal'

DAVID MAKOVSKY

SASHA SADAN

OMAN has postponed the visit of an Israeli team scheduled to depart today in advance of this month's ground-breaking trip by an Israeli delegation to a Persian Gulf country, Foreign Ministry officials confirmed.

"We have been told that they want our team to arrive next Sunday instead of Tuesday. They said the reasons are technical," diplomats said last night.

However, there are reports that the Omanis fear the first-time convergence of Israeli journalists on their country, preferring a "low-key" atmosphere surrounding the multilateral peace session dealing with water on April 17. Officials in Jerusalem insist they have no confirmation of this.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin is supposed to lead the first-ever Israeli delegation to that country, which would mark the first time Israel would be invited to any Persian Gulf nation.

THE state comptroller has accused the National Insurance Institute of wasting more than a million shekels last year in a Tel Aviv rental deal, according to an Israel Radio report yesterday.

According to the radio report, the NII in February of last year published a tender for office space and subsequently rented 100 sq.m. in the Hassafim Building from German-Israeli businessman Yosef Buchman. The NII also invested in renovating the office.

Complaints from NII officials led to an investigation by the State Comptroller's Office, the radio reported.

Apparently the NII paid "tens of thousands of dollars" more in rent than the government appraiser had approved. The renovations (Continued on Page 2)

Sarid: Close Channel 7 radio station

DAVID MAKOVSKY

ENVIRONMENT Minister Yossi Sarid yesterday called upon the cabinet to close Channel 7, the right-wing pirate radio station, as part of the existing directive to ban Kach propaganda and incitement to murder.

Sarid produced an English transcript of an interview broadcast on Channel 7 endorsing the wanton killing of Arabs. The interview was conducted only five hours before the Hebron massacre.

"If the cabinet does not close Channel 7, it will not be following its own decisions," Sarid said.

According to a transcript provided to reporters, interviewer Ben Israel ended his talk with a Kach supporter by wishing Purim greetings to settlers held in prison for murdering Palestinians, as well as "all those that did what a lot of us think of doing and don't have the guts to do."

Israel's remarks came at the close of an interview with "Daniel," who reported a Purim party among prisoners including Ami Popper, serving a life sentence for murdering seven Palestinians in May 1990.

Daniel referred to Popper as a tzadik.

Following the interview, Channel 7, which broadcasts unlicensed from a ship in the Mediterranean, announced Israel would be suspended. Israel declined to comment last night.

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Arafat says he'll come to Jericho next month

22 deportees due to arrive from Jordan today

LAMIA LAHOUD and news agencies

PLO leader Yasser Arafat plans to come to Jericho in May if Israel-PLO negotiations on Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho are concluded on schedule, senior PLO officials said in Tunis yesterday.

"Abu Ammar [Arafat] told us he is preparing to return to the homeland soon. He said it would be next month ... and [he] will go to Jericho," Samir Subeihat, president of the General Union of Palestinian Students, told Reuters.

He spoke before joining a group of Palestinian deportees allowed to return to the territories under a deal on implementing the self-rule accord between Israel and the PLO.

They were seen off at Tunis airport by tearful PLO officials overcome by emotion as their colleagues flew to Amman. They are expected to cross into Judea and Samaria today.

Subeihat said Arafat announced his plan to the group during a farewell meeting on Sunday night at his headquarters.

"This is a historic moment, it symbolizes our people's right to return," said Subeihat, 39. He was deported in 1988.

"This is an advance party for the entry of Abu Ammar to Jericho, to the implementation of the peace deal, and marks the start of the reconstruction of the homeland," Subeihat added.

A vanguard of 46 civil deportees and a first contingent of Palestinian police are expected to return home this week.

Today a group of 22 deportees is to arrive in Jericho and the Gaza Strip, said PLO official Saeb Nadi.

Tomorrow or Thursday, six senior police officers are to arrive to prepare for the coming of the first Palestinian police officers, said Adnan Hamad, who heads FIDA, the Palestinian Democratic Union (a splinter group of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which supports the peace process) in Jericho. Among the advance team is Palestinian Liberation Army Gen. Nasser Yousef, he said.

According to Hamad, 10-17 more police officers will arrive towards the end of the week. "By April 12, we are expecting 300 policemen in Jericho," he said.

"During the last two days, we saw the Israelis move their things out of the police station in the

center of Jericho. This will be the first place our police force will take over."

Many of those returning are important political figures from Fatah, FIDA, and the People's Party. They are expected to play an important political role in Palestinian politics, said Hamad.

A second group of deportees is to return within the next 10 days, among them Mohammed Dahlan from Gaza and Jibril Rajoub from Hebron, said Nadi. Both have been living in Tunis, where they were in charge of the *shabiba* youth and armed Fatah activists in the territories.

They are charged with building up the security service in the territories, according to a senior Fatah leader from the territories who is one of seven local leaders working with Jibril and Dahlan to build the Palestinian internal security service.

According to a Palestinian source, the return of Dahlan, Jibril, and other senior PLO activists was the outcome of the latest negotiations in Cairo between the PLO and Israel, while the return of the first group of 22 arriving today was agreed upon some time ago.

Riad El Malki, a PFLP spokesman from the territories, accused the PLO of having brokered a deal with the Israelis, according to which Dahlan, Jibril, and other Palestinian security personnel can return before the agreement is signed, to suppress opposition to the agreement in the territories.

"They are planning to build an authority based on their secret services and force, like all other Arab regimes," he said.

According to Malki, the PLO's decision to close all the PLO offices in the territories a few days ago is connected to the deportees' return. "After the killing of the six armed Fatah activists in Gaza who were themselves members of the local PLO offices, Fatah activists in the Gaza Strip called upon the PLO to stop the negotiations," said Malki. "Arafat ordered the closure of the PLO offices to get rid of these Fatah activists. He is bringing the deportees who are loyal to him to take over."

Hamad confirms that the closure of the PLO offices is connected to the return of the deportees. He said the PLO is trying to build up Palestinian authority in the territories and that some of the returning deportees will play an important role.

"Some deportees are going to take important positions," he said.

Peres briefs envoys of Italy, Norway and Denmark on Hebron observers

THE Norwegian ambassador yesterday brushed off threats by Moslem extremists to kill any observers sent to Hebron.

"If we were to be afraid, then we would have to give up. We have people in Bosnia and people in Lebanon, who have been killed," Ambassador Herman Pedersen told reporters.

Pedersen spoke after joining the ambassadors of Denmark and Italy, also due to send troops, in a meeting with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres for a briefing on the temporary deployment of 160 foreign observers.

Peres said their presence would help return normality to the town and engender a sense of

security among its residents.

Norway will contribute 90 men and Denmark and Italy 35 each to the force, Peres said. The force will be composed of 60 observers and 100 support and administrative staff for the three-month assignment.

Peres said the ambassadors asked about security measures, and he told them their safety was Israel's responsibility.

A three-member exploratory team from Norway, Denmark, and Italy was to arrive late yesterday from Cairo. Led by Kjell Johansen, the former chief of UN police in the conflict in Yugoslavia, the group will prepare for the main group's arrival.

(AP)

Moving day for IDF in Deir el-Balah marred by stonethrowing

THE IDF began moving out of Deir el-Balah in Gaza yesterday.

Soldiers took farewell photographs and loaded cabinets, chairs, desks, and a still cold refrigerator onto a semitrailer in the courtyard of the military government's headquarters.

Even though the moving was a visible sign of the army's intent to leave, Palestinian youths with slingshots and stones that bounced off the walls and olive drab jeeps. Troops gave chase, firing plastic bullets and tear gas, wounding two Arabs.

"We don't want peace. There will be stones every day," shouted Palestinian youths, many aligned with Hamas.

Some soldiers blamed the outburst of violence on the arrival of photographers, but were puzzled about why the Palestinians were throwing stones while they were pulling up stakes. "They don't want us to leave?" asked one.

Confusion prevailed in the streets, as well. Soldiers kept loading the trailer during the melee. Women walked through IDF lines carrying bundles of wash, and a Moslem fundamentalist dressed in white bicycled unnoticed among the soldiers as they knelt to shoot at rioters 50 yards away. Arab cars tried to edge their way around army vehicles.

Maj. Udi, a military commander in Deir el-Balah, said his unit was being moved to guard settlers in Gush Katif. He said that even while the army formally was still in full control, his soldiers had orders not to patrol in the nearby refugee camps of Bureij, Nuseirat, and Mughazi unless absolutely necessary.

"We are not going in because we know the sensitivity of conducting patrols inside the camps," said Udi. "We are in a period of transition, and we are trying to avoid confrontation."

At a seaside army base in Gaza City, soldiers emptied mobile homes and moved them onto trucks. Equipment is either being trucked to Israel or to the Gush Katif bloc of Jewish settlements, where troops are to be posted once autonomy begins.

Saeb Erekat, a PLO negotiator in Jericho, explained the continued protests as an expression of Palestinian doubts.

"While they're leaving buildings in Jericho, the army is building new positions outside of town. People are cautious about the steps Israelis are taking and want to see whether they are just moving from one place to another," Erekat told The Associated Press.

Sufian Abu Zayde, the PLO spokesman in Gaza, said there was full cooperation between the army and the PLO on the redeployment.

Abu Zayde said the troop movements were good for Palestinian morale. "It is clear that in a few days, we will not see Israeli forces here ... That shows that the agreement is starting to be implemented on the ground," he said. (AP)



Chief rabbis Elhanan Bakshi-Doron (l), and Yisrael Meir Lau with Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur at yesterday's meeting of the Chief Rabbinate Council. Gur assured the rabbis there was no intention of evacuating settlements at this time. (Kibnoki)

Rabbinate defers decision on soldiers' disobeying orders to evacuate Jews

LIAT COLLINS

THE Chief Rabbinate Council yesterday decided not to decide on the question of whether soldiers are justified in disobeying an order to evacuate a Jewish settlement.

The council meeting followed the halachic ruling issued in Kiryat Arba last week in which three leading rabbis from the National Religious camp - former chief Ashkenazi Rabbi Avraham Shapira, Rabbi Shaul Yisraeli, and Rabbi Moshe Zvi Neria - instructed soldiers to refuse orders to evacuate Jewish settlements.

At the end of yesterday's marathon meeting, during which the nine rabbis heard a report from Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur, council president Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau called on the public "to leave the rabbinate above political and public arguments."

The rabbinate, he said, was satisfied by Gur's reassurances that the government does not intend to evacuate any Jewish settlements or residents from any part of Israel at the moment.

"There is therefore no need to cross the

bridge yet," Lau said.

The council also called on the public "to make a huge effort to prevent a gap growing among the people and to ensure the unity of the people of Israel and the security of all the residents of the Land of Israel."

Gur said the subject of the removal of Jews from some sites within Hebron to a central spot where they could be guarded more easily had been raised last week but Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, in his capacity as defense minister, had decided against it.

Gur called on the rabbis to avoid putting an added burden on soldiers already working under great pressure.

"It is not a question of the honor of this or that rabbi, but the fate of the country which lies in the balance," Lau said.

Despite the official line, some of the more hawkish council members, including Haifa Chief Rabbi She'ar Yashuv Hacohen, repeated their belief that a soldier could refuse an order

to evacuate a Jew.

But Rabbi Yehuda Amital, the founder of the Hesder Yeshiva soldier program and the Meimad movement, condemned the ruling by the three rabbis.

"Not a single centimeter of the Land of Israel will be saved by refusing orders. On the other hand, this is the way to destroy the army, which defends the land," Amital said. He said such a halachic ruling could have an adverse affect on military discipline. "And furthermore, teaches religious soldiers to dismiss halachic rulings."

Itim adds:

Rabbi Eliezer Schach ruled yesterday that it is permissible to move Jews out of certain areas in the biblical Land of Israel as long as these areas remain under Jewish control.

Schach said it is politically unwise to move settlers at this time. Itim quoted Schach aides as saying:

Shas spiritual leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef ruled there is no ban in Jewish law on moving Jews from one place to another.

More sections of Agranat report to be released

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE cabinet voted unanimously yesterday to release excerpts of the classified sections of the Agranat Commission's report investigating failures regarding the Yom Kippur War.

The cabinet decision, put forward by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, comes to preempt a petition by the *Ma'ariv* daily to the High Court of Justice that the classified section of the report be released, almost 20 years after the panel finished its work.

The commission's final report, issued on January 30, 1975, heavily criticized IDF intelligence-gathering both before and during the Yom Kippur War.

However, the cabinet decision gives the IDF Field Security Unit the last word on what should be divulged to the public.

The cabinet specifically agreed that the disclosures will not include the following: Revelations of sources and methods of IDF intelligence; operational details regarding the army's mobilization in a national emergency, and operational details about military units.

The Knesset foreign affairs and defense committee is expected to formally ratify the cabinet decision, and the material will be made public in three months.

Knesset to consider motions against return of deportees

SARAH HONIG

THE Knesset will break its recess next Monday and meet in special session to take up opposition motions against returning PLO deportees to the territories and allowing the deployment of international observers in Hebron.

The recall became mandated yesterday when the Likud Knesset faction collected the 30 MKs' signatures needed to call a special session.

The Likud maintains that the deportees are the terror chiefs of the PLO and to allow "dozens of such dangerous terrorists into the

Judea/Samaria/Gaza tinderbox is the height of folly, and will have consequences which could be costly and bloody for the entire nation's security."

By allowing "these terrorist godfathers back into the areas from which they had been banished for good reason, the prime minister is pouring oil on the already rekindled flames of the intifada. [Yitzhak] Rabin is fanning the blaze of terror and violence which his own PLO peace partners are igniting anew," charges an official Likud statement.

PLO

(Continued from Page 1) will begin the transfer of powers immediately. Army sources said that the Palestinians will be briefed by the IDF and civil administration officials on their authority and powers, as was agreed in Cairo, as well as on coordination with Israeli authorities, as was discussed in a meeting Sunday between Fatah officials and OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilnay.

"Ultimately security remains our responsibility, which means it must be clear to them that they are not authorized to shoot at vehicles, unless it is certain an attack is in process," said a Southern Command source.

In Gaza City, authorities Sunday night began transferring some 600 prisoners from the Ansar II prison camp to the Ketziot detention center in the Negev. The transfer continued yesterday.

While some problems remain in Gaza, preparations for the transfer of power have been completed in Jericho. IDF troops and police yesterday removed equipment from bases designated for evacuation. Residents watched as trucks carried furniture and files from the heavily protected police station quarters on the edge of town, soldiers made a bonfire of old furniture, signs, and garbage, while bulldozers continued to level ground for new offices and a new army border post near Vered Yericho.

In a related development, security officials announced that virtually all the terrorists who have murdered 17 Israelis inside the Green Line since January, 1993, are youths from Gaza. They also noted that in this period, 54 Israelis - soldiers and civilians - have been killed in the territories.

Yesterday, Rabin met in Jerusalem with Soviet envoy Viktor Posolovskiy about the peace talks and Rabin's upcoming trip to Moscow.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Armed Hebron Arab caught at Temple Mount

An Arab resident of Hebron was stopped by police today at the Majlis Gate to the Temple Mount and found to be carrying a penknife, knife, and pamphlet calling for revenge on the Jews.

During interrogation, the 22-year-old confessed he had come to Jerusalem to pray and intended to stab Jews afterwards.

Assad meets with Mubarak

In a previously unannounced visit, Syrian President Hafez Assad and two of his top ministers arrived in Cairo yesterday for talks with President Hosni Mubarak. Assad, together with Vice President Abdel-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouk Shara, had one session of talks with Mubarak, Prime Minister Atef Sedki, and Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, official sources said. They were to have met again late last night. *Reuters*

SLA men wounded by bomb

Seven South Lebanese Army soldiers were wounded yesterday when a bomb exploded near their outpost in the security zone. SLA sources said. They said a mortar barrage accompanied the bombing at an outpost near Toluha in the zone's central sector.

At least three of the wounded were in critical condition at a Tel Aviv hospital. It was unclear how badly the other militiamen were hurt, the sources said.

Hamas men responsible for several murders

Three of the five Hamas terrorists killed by the IDF late last month after barricading themselves in a Hebron house were responsible for several previous terrorist attacks, including the murders of Mordechai and Shalom Lapid in December, the IDF Spokesman said yesterday.

Marwan Abu Rubella, Iyad Abu Hadid and Mohammed Atrash, all members of the Izzadin Kasseem military wing of Hamas, were killed on March 23 after a day-long shoot-out with the army.

They and other cell members, were implicated in the November 7 murder of Ephraim Ayubli, the December 6 murders of Mordechai and Shalom Lapid, and the December 22 murders of Meir Mendelovitch and Elhanan Levin.

SHAS

(Continued from Page 1) strife that some party sources say that the new wrinkle found in the meat bill is only an excuse to cover up Shas's internal wr. Deni and Raphael Pinhasi are barred from executive office by order of the High Court. Deni is pushing for the unambiguous Moshe Malia to be named religious affairs minister, and wants no one to replace him in the Interior Ministry, which he continues to run by remote control.

This has infuriated Azran, who sees himself as the leading candidate for the portfolio. So does Shlomo Benizri, whom Deni considers a potent political threat. Shas is also slated for two deputy ministerships, which would mean that all its MKs, except Deni and Pinhasi, would get an executive post.

NII

(Continued from Page 1) were the kind that normally a landlord performs at his expense, and ended up costing three times as much as the sum approved for them.

The NII spokeswoman, Hannah Karen Ye'ar, admitted last night that officials from the State Comptroller's Office came to the NII and that the rental issue was investigated.

She said that the price paid for the rental was reasonable in terms of Tel Aviv properties and that the NII had had difficulty in finding suitable premises, adding that it took the two years to find these offices.

A spokeswoman for the State Comptroller's Office said last night she could not confirm nor deny the radio report, but was still checking it.

Memories of the Holocaust

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Families abandon Dugit to protest lack of security, seek permanent site

LIAT COLLINS

WELVE of the 16 families from Dugit, a village in the north of the Gaza Strip, are now living in a temporary campsite 100 meters from the Green Line. They are asking for help in moving to a permanent settlement near the sea and to protest the security situation.

The first six families moved yesterday night and were joined by most of their neighbors.

Dugit was established as a fishing village, not an ideological settlement. Four years ago, residents were established, the residents were promised that the permanent settlement would be built next to the sea, but a recent construction plan placed the permanent settlement near their temporary homes, about a kilometer from shore.

"It's ridiculous to have a fishing village a kilometer from the beach on top of a mountain," resident Yoram Ravitzky complained to Army Radio yesterday.

The longstanding protest about the final site became tied to the security issue after terrorists shot at a resident's car as it was leaving the settlement Friday afternoon.

"It's too dangerous for us. We want to move within the Green Line and have our fishing village," Tova Goren told Israel Radio.

"There has been an escalation of violence lately, and we can't take chances. Four years ago we had good relations with the local people and had no need for IDF es-

corts. Now the situation is intolerable."

Ravitzky said the security situation has become worse with the signing of the accord with the PLO. "The security issue is something we all agree on. It is daily becoming worse and last Friday's shooting marked the peak," he said.

Both Goren and Ravitzky said the Jewish Agency and Gush Emunim's Amana settlement organization had made promises that have not been kept.

An Amana representative dismissed these claims on the radio and told reporters that if families requested to leave, a new group of settlers would be found to replace them. Residents said Amana officials later visited the temporary site and seemed more sympathetic.

"Right now, we're waiting for an alternative [site] or for someone to tell us what we can do to ensure our security," Ravitzky said.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, in a separate interview with Army Radio, said the families who leave would not receive compensation. Paying them money now might establish a precedent which would lead to paying both the families who leave and the ones who stay, he said.

MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz) called on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin "to pick up the gauntlet and use Dugit as a model for the evacuation by choice of settlers from other settlements."

Europeans criticize delay on bill to limit workplace smoking

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Association of European Cancer Leagues has sent a letter to Israel expressing its disappointment with the refusal of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin—who is acting health minister—to sign into law an amendment that would ban smoking in the workplace.

Tom Hudson, president of the ECL, and Sinead Foran, its secretary, sent the letter to Miri Ziv, director-general of the Israel Cancer Association. The ECL, based in Dublin, is the roof organization of all the anti-cancer associations in Europe and influential in setting health policies regarding the disease.

The ECL officials wrote that they were "very concerned to learn" that the amendment, passed by the Knesset labor and social affairs committee two

months ago, and would limit smoking on the job to designated "smoking rooms," remains unsigned.

"We note with interest that the amendment is supported at national government level and by 90 percent of the Israeli population. What more support does your prime minister need?" they asked.

Rabin aide Eitan Haber declined to comment on the ECL rebuke.

A month ago, Haber had said that a new health minister would soon be named to replace Haim Ramon, and that he could sign the amendment. But no replacement is yet in sight. Haber explained that Rabin, a chain smoker who goes through two or three packs a day, would "feel hypocritical" signing the bill.

Postal officials bemoan lack of director-general

JUDY SIEGEL

SENIOR Postal Authority officials yesterday told Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni there is an urgent need for a permanent director-general to replace Amos Bracha, who was fired by her predecessor, Moshe Shal, over a year ago. Bracha's petition to the High Court of Justice has prevented Aloni from naming a permanent successor.

Aloni told Postal Authority chairman Shalom Sa'adon—an appointee of former communications minister Raphael Eibasi—that she would not extend his tenure when it expires in June. She thanked Sa'adon for his "devoted service" and wished him success in the future.

Avraham Mansouri, who has been acting director-general since

Bracha left, recently tendered his resignation, saying that Shas appointees on the authority council, especially Sa'adon, had prevented him from doing his job. Mansouri yesterday assented to Aloni's request to remain in his post until a replacement is found.

The lack of a permanent boss, officials said, has caused the delay of important decisions and risked the financial health of the authority. In addition, the staff is upset about the lack of a permanent director-general, they said. One official also claimed that "some key positions are not filled by professional people."

Aloni said she regrets her inability to legally name a replacement until the High Court rules on Bracha's case.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the queen of spades, queen of hearts, nine of diamonds and ace of clubs.

Educational Centers in Israel of the Rabbinical Council of America

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Sunday, April 10, 1994 - 29 Nisan 5754, 5:30 P.M.

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For reservations and transportation information, please call: 02-524920, 08-468872 (daytime), 02-272548 (evening), 02-933081 (evening), 08-458283 (evening)

The participation of colleagues, friends, & supporters of Mizrahi - Hapoei HaMizrahi will enable us to express our eternal gratitude to the past and future president of Rabbinical Council of America and chairman of its Israel Yeshivot committee



An army medic suffers no pain as he injects one of several hundred new recruits welcomed into the IDF yesterday.

(IDF Spokesman)

Health Ministry okays hepatitis-A vaccine

JUDY SIEGEL

A HEPATITIS-A vaccine, for the first time, has been approved for import and sale by the Health Ministry. It has been authorized only for adult use and costs NIS 300 for a series of three shots. The vaccine, to be sold in private pharmacies, was previously licensed in five European countries.

Hepatitis-A is spread by direct contact or by fecal-infected water or food. There are over 10 million reported cases worldwide each year. While annoying and temporarily debilitating, it is usually fol-

lowed by a complete recovery; severe complications and death are rare. The disease is especially common in child day-care centers, kindergartens and the army.

The new vaccine, produced by SmithKline Beecham of Belgium, will probably be most popular among those going on trips to the Far East, where the incidence of hepatitis A is high.

Prof. Daniel Shouval, head of the liver unit at Hadassah-Univers-

ity Hospital, explained that there is "no justification" for the Health Ministry to subsidize the new vaccine, as hepatitis-A is in most cases only an annoyance that takes a toll in missed work days.

When this or other versions of the vaccine becomes much cheaper and approved for use on children, widespread vaccination is expected. Hepatitis-A vaccines, he said, will eventually replace gamma globulin, a blood-derived substance, that provides only temporary, passive immunity.

Jews' group suicide at Nazi work camp revealed by Kibbutz Lohamei Hagetaot archive material

YIGAL KOTZER

NINE Jews at the Nazis' Konin work camp near Lodz committed suicide after setting the barracks on fire rather than be sent to the death camps, testimony found at Kibbutz Lohamei Hagetaot's archives reveals.

The archivists recently began computerizing all the archive material, and came across matching references to the incident. The testimony had existed for years, but previously had not been noticed.

Three letters testifying to the fact that a group of workers at the camp decided to attack their German guards and then commit suicide were found. Avraham Seiff headed the group, and wrote to his family here about it a day before it happened.

Another letter written by two brothers in the camp about the incident was found, as was a diary entry by Rabbi Moshe Aharonson, the former chief rabbi of Petah Tikva, who described it and his efforts to prevent the mass suicide.

Archives director Eva Feldenkreis said the three pieces of evidence examined together show that the group was made up of carpenters, tailors, and

shoemakers who understood that once the work at the camp was over, they would be taken to the death camps. They decided to set the barracks on fire, poison the guards, and then commit suicide.

"They apparently failed to carry out the whole plan, and therefore set the barracks on fire and hanged themselves," she said. There were 60 Jews in the camp, but only 15 of them were in on the plan, only nine of whom committed suicide. "Stories of individuals committing suicide in the camps are common, but acts of collective suicide were unusual. Their heroism was in their saying they would not give up without a fight."

Two of the remaining six Jews also tried to commit suicide but the guards succeeded in capturing them and preventing them from doing so.

Kibbutz Lohamei Hagetaot leaders also announced plans to honor poet Yitzhak Katzenelson next year, who died at Auschwitz. Two books of his poems will be published which until now had not been translated from Yiddish into Hebrew.



FOR THE FIRST TIME

SOUTH AFRICANS IN ISRAEL ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN SOUTH AFRICAN ELECTIONS

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

If you are 18 or over and a South African citizen (born or naturalized), including persons who are citizens of Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei, or a permanent resident who has resided in South Africa during the immediately preceding five years, then you are eligible to vote.

Permanent residents of South Africa who have resided outside South Africa for more than five years lose their right of permanent residence and no longer qualify to vote.

WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I REQUIRE?

In order to vote you need one of these:

- A valid South African passport.
- An Identity Document (both the old dark blue and the new green covered versions)
- The old Green Identity Card (issued until 1972)
- A Reference Book (all three versions)
- Identity Documents issued by the Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda or Ciskei.

Naturalized South African citizens are required to produce a valid South African passport.

HOW CAN I VALIDATE MY PASSPORT?

If your South African passport is not valid, you can validate it by visiting the Embassy of South Africa during office hours: Mon. - Thu. 07:30-16:30 Friday 07:30-12:30

TOP TOWER
Dizengoff Center
50 Dizengoff Street
16th Floor
Tel Aviv

As the elections are getting closer validate your passport right away in order to ensure your eligibility to vote.

WHEN AND WHERE DO I VOTE?

One polling station will be operated in Israel on Tuesday 26 April 1994. The Polling Station will be located at the Tel Aviv Showgrounds (Ganei Hatarachal) in Pavilion 32 (Hall 6) and will be open from 07:00 to 19:00.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

If you have any other queries or problems, please don't hesitate to contact the Embassy of South Africa: 03-5252566

CAST YOUR VOTE ON APRIL 26th.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Six-year sentence for sexual abuse

A 42-year-old man, convicted of sexually abusing his niece over a six-year period, since she was 10, was sentenced to six years in prison and two years suspended by Haifa District Court yesterday.

Yigal Kotzer

Body of immigrant found in stairwell

The body of a 43-year-old immigrant from the CIS was found in the stairwell of a building on Tel Aviv's Rehov Kibbutz Galuyot yesterday morning. There were no signs of violence on the body, and police do not suspect foul play. The body was taken to the Abu Kabir Forensic Institute for a determination of the cause of death. Over the past two months, the bodies of several homeless new immigrants, many of them alcoholics, have been found in Tel Aviv.

Itim

Man charged with murder and robbery

Avner Tawil, 49, of Tel Aviv, was charged yesterday in Tel Aviv District Court with the September 1990 murder of Haim Salman, manager of the Rav Hen Cinema on Dizengoff Square, and also charged with a local bank robbery.

Tawil allegedly jumped Salman as he was on his way to deposit proceeds in the bank and shot him to death in a struggle. Tawil is also accused of robbing a Discount Bank branch in February, and shooting and wounding a bank employee.

Itim

Rabbi guilty of performing illegal marriage

Rabbi Efraim Madar, 37, head of the Magen Yisrael Yeshiva in Netivot, was convicted of performing an illegal marriage and ordered to sign an NIS 1,000 bond against committing a similar offense within two years by Beersheba Magistrates Court yesterday. Madar had married a yeshiva student to a woman who had not been certified as divorced by the Chief Rabbinate or the Religious Affairs Ministry. Madar said the documents the woman had presented had satisfied him.

Itim

Man held for having inflammatory literature

A Baka al-Gharbiya man, 47, arrested for having inciteful literature in his Tel Aviv apartment—calling for the murder of Jews and inciting against the prime minister and the head of the General Security Service—was ordered sent for psychiatric testing by Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday.

Itim

11 writers to tour France

Eleven leading Israeli authors will begin a two-week tour of France and Belgium today under the auspices of *Les Belles Etrangères*, a program sponsored by the French Ministry of Education and Culture designed to acquaint French speakers with the literature of other nations.

Each of the authors will be accompanied by a French colleague on the program, which includes lectures, readings and encounters with French and Belgian authors. The delegation includes Yehuda Amichai, Ori Castel-Blum, Emil Habibi, Yoram Kaniuk, and Sami Michael. Opening ceremonies at the new Bastille Opera in Paris today include an address by Science and Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni.

Helen Kaye

Work-study program cited

Eighty-five teenagers in a work-study program at the Dov Hoz School in Tel Aviv and their employers will be honored this afternoon. The youngsters, 15-18, are members of Noar Lomed Ve'oved who dropped out of regular educational frameworks.

<p>MIN. OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT Information Center</p> <p>YAD VASHEM Heroes and Martyrs Memorial Authority</p>	<p>Heroes and Martyrs Memorial Day - Official Opening Ceremony</p> <p>will take place on the eve of Memorial Day, Wednesday, April 6, at 8:30 p.m., at Yad Vashem, Har Hatzikaron, Jerusalem.</p>
<p>In the presence of: President Ezer Weizman Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Avner Shalev, Yad Vashem Board Chairman Dr. Yosef Burg, Chairman, Yad Vashem Council Shtetl Greik, on behalf of members of the Underground, the Partisans and Fighters taken prisoner in Jabotinsky, Chairman, International Yad Vashem Association</p>	<p>Musical renditions: Netanelle, the Army Chief Education Officer's Chamber Orchestra, the Shmuel Gogol Harmonica Orchestra, and the Ankor Children's Choir (Rubin Academy)</p>
<p>Master of Ceremonies and Narrator: Azkara:</p>	<p>Alex Anski Aluf Gad Navon, IDF Chief Rabbi Sgan-Aluf Arye Braun, Senior IDF Cantor Entrance to the ceremony, from 6:30 p.m., by invitation only. Yad Vashem may be visited until 3:00 p.m. only. Invitees will be able to visit until 11:00 p.m. A transportation service from Mt. Herzl to Yad Vashem will operate from 6:30 p.m., and back to Mt. Herzl after the ceremony. Private cars should be parked at Mt. Herzl.</p>
<p>In the Art Gallery</p>	<p>A new exhibition, "Double Signature," of paintings from the Terezin Ghetto</p>
<p>In the Valley of the Communities</p>	<p>Exhibition Commemorating Synagogues Destroyed on Kristallnacht</p>
<p>Night Conference</p>	<p>The Significance of Remembrance 10:15 p.m. - 1:30 a.m., the Auditorium, with Prof. Yehuda Bauer, Prof. Shlomo Barzani, Prof. Israel Gutman, Dr. Eliezer Don Yehie, and Prof. Eliezer Shweid Moderator: Carmil Guy.</p>
<p>During the second half of the evening, screening of the documentary film, "Daddy, Come to the Luna Park" - a journey to Poland by actor Shmuel Vilozhny and his father for participants in the night conference, from 9:45 p.m., and return after the conference.</p>	<p>Please dress warmly</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Heroes and Martyrs Memorial Day Thursday, April 7</p>
<p>10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Siren for two minutes' silence</p>
<p>10:02 a.m.</p>	<p>Laying of Wreaths at the foot of the Warsaw Ghetto Memorial, with the participation of the President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Knesset, and some one hundred delegations</p>
<p>10:45 a.m. - 12 noon</p>	<p>Until Every Person There is a Name, public reading of the names of those who perished in the Holocaust. Continuous screening of films on the Holocaust, in the Auditorium</p>
<p>11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Central Memorial Ceremony - in Ohel Yizkor, with Cantor Yehuda Landner and the Shoshan Children's Choir</p>
<p>12 noon - 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Special concert in the Valley of the Communities, by the Chamber Orchestra of the Army Chief Education Officer</p>
<p>1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Youth Assembly - to mark "50 years of the Palestinian Parachutists," in the Warsaw Ghetto Plaza, with the participation of Netanelle, The Chamber Orchestra of the Army Chief Education Officer, Tzeirei Tel Aviv Group and Shlomo Gronick.</p>
<p>5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>In cooperation with the Youth Dept. of the Min. of Education and Culture and the Council of Youth Movements</p>
<p>7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Special Concert under the auspices of Yad Vashem Jerusalem Theater, Sherover Hall Israel premiere of "Symphony of Lamentations" by the Polish composer Henrk Goretzky, played by the Haifa Symphony Orchestra. Conductor: Margaret Field. Discount tickets available at Yad Vashem, Admin. Office, Tel. 02-751601</p>
	<p>* Transportation from Mt. Herzl to Yad Vashem and Valley of the Communities provided from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. A sound and light presentation in Hebrew and English will be screened every half hour in the Valley of the Communities. Guided tours in Hebrew and English will take place at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. For additional information: Information and Commemoration Dept., Yad Vashem, Tel. 02-751614</p>

Bookings by D-Day veterans to be honored

JOHN FOLLAIN
PARIS

FRANCE, anxious to defuse a row over hotel reservations for this June's D-Day ceremonies, said yesterday that no World War II veterans would be pushed out of Normandy hotels.

British and Canadian veterans had pledged to go in with "guns blazing" to enforce their rights. They said authorities had canceled their hotel reservations for the commemoration of the 1944 landings to make room for foreign dignitaries.

But France denied it had ordered 200 veterans' bookings to be canceled and promised no veteran would lose their hotel bed.

Calling an unusual briefing on Easter Monday, a holiday in France, Foreign Ministry spokesman Richard Duque told reporters: "We never planned to requisition the hotels. The bookings which have been made will be maintained."

All guests, including the 200 veterans booked in to the Hotel du Golf in Deauville, would be received "in the French tradition of hospitality."

The Lucien Barriere group, which owns the Golf hotel, said on Sunday the Foreign Ministry had told it to cancel the veterans' bookings to make room for "sovereigns, heads of state, and of government."

But a senior festivities organizer told Reuters on Sunday the veterans would be making way for US television crews.

Duque was repeatedly asked how the row could have erupted if nothing had been done to anger the veterans, who have lambasted French authorities for canceling their pre-paid bookings.

"There is no polemic and no problem... There was a certain degree of agitation but the news that got out did not correspond to the truth," he answered.

Canada's ambassador to Paris, who had urged a speedy resolution, said yesterday his government had been "surprised and even disappointed" that the bookings should be canceled.

Welcoming the ministry's announcement that bookings would be maintained, ambassador Benoit Bouchard cautioned: "We hope there will be no repetition of this kind of incident before June 6... The veterans are the heroes of this celebration."

Several thousand veterans and 15 heads of state and government are scheduled to attend the anniversary celebrations.

According to British and Canadian veterans' associations, the French government had proposed to put the veterans up in more than 60 private homes in Normandy.

British former paratrooper Angus Cross, 69, who booked rooms at the Golf hotel for more than 100 Canadian veterans, had complained at the weekend his reservations had been canceled.

Asked how the paratroopers had reacted, Cross said: "They're spitting blood. They're spitting feathers. It's a right dog's dinner but we have a legally binding contract and we're going in guns blazing."

Duque acknowledged the authorities "had at one time thought of transferring the veterans. The local town hall offered to house veterans in private homes but this is not necessary."

Instead, officials of the Interior, Foreign and Veterans Affairs ministries will meet today to seek another way of putting up foreign dignitaries and heads of state. "France will welcome and honor in the best conditions all those who fought for its freedom," Duque said.

The authoritative newspaper *Le Monde* said yesterday that the row highlighted the French people's view they had won the war "on their own 'with the help' of their allies."

"The historical truth is less heroic," the paper said in an editorial. "Across the Channel or the Atlantic, people in any case don't see things that way." (Reuters)



Five Vietnamese men massage each other's back in a Hanoi park yesterday after early morning exercises. (Reuters)

Study: Teens sexually active worldwide

DAVID BRISCOE
WASHINGTON

ADOLESCENTS around the world, no matter what their culture, are sexually active before age 20 — even if their parents are reluctant to admit it, a new study says.

And the age at which sexual activity begins is decreasing as overall health improves, according to the report released Sunday by Population Action International.

The non-profit family planning advocacy group said by the year 2000, a billion teenagers will be facing sexual challenges and desires. While some 700 million teenagers worldwide are struggling with increasingly complex questions about sex, the report said most are not getting the help they need to find answers.

"The school systems in most countries... have largely failed to meet the sexual health education needs of youth and children," said the Population Action report, "Youth at Risk."

The report said the sexual behavior of adolescents is being affected by recent developments, including the spread of AIDS, changes in laws on abortion, and a worldwide trend to delay marriage.

In Bangladesh, the average age of marriage for women has risen from 14 to 18 since the early 1960s, and similar changes have occurred in other cultures, the report said. One obvious impact is to increase the years during which teenagers are likely to engage in sex outside of marriage.

It cited surveys in Kenya and Uganda that youths who were sexually active had experienced their first intercourse, on average, by age 15. In the United States, one fourth of 15-

year-old girls and one-third of 15-year-old boys are estimated to have had intercourse, the report said.

In nine Latin American and Caribbean countries, it said, roughly one-half to two-thirds of women reported having intercourse before age 20.

Around the world, adults are reluctant to admit that their children are having sex, but studies in several countries show that most adolescents, no matter what their culture, are sexually active before age 20, the report said.

Adolescents are less likely to use contraceptives than adults, particularly in developing countries, and many young people have little knowledge of reproductive physiology, the report found.

Approaches to sex are often affected by culture, but social forces are changing attitudes, the report said, citing the impact of urbanization, changing family structures and mass media.

"Government support for adolescent programs has been constrained by societal discomfort in acknowledging adolescent sexual activity and by the misconception that access to sexuality education or contraception promotes sexual activity among youth," the report said.

It cited World Health Organization studies in several countries to show that children with a good sex education are more likely

to delay their first intercourse.

The best approach, the report concluded, is to encourage a delay in sexual activity while providing birth control counseling and contraceptives.

But the report said most family planning programs do little to reach adolescents; laws and practices often restrict youngsters' access to contraception and abortion services.

Even marriage does not resolve all the problems of teenage sex.

In South Asia, for example, where marriages occur early, complications in pregnancy and childbirth are greater for adolescent mothers. Unsafe abortions are also a major cause of adolescent mothers' deaths, the report said.

Early childbearing, with or without marriage, often limits educational and employment opportunities for young women and contributes to rapid population growth.

WHO estimates that one in 20 teenagers worldwide acquires a sexually transmitted disease each year. In the United States, the risk is one in eight.

And the impact of sexual diseases on young women is usually greater because detection is more difficult and the results more serious, the Population Action report said.

On the positive side, the report described successful programs for dealing with adolescent sex in Grenada, Colombia, Mexico, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

It said the most effective programs involve youth in their planning and implementation, and then obtain the support of community leaders and parents. (AP)

One dies in Amman hotel fire

JAMAL HALABY
AMMAN

FIRE broke out yesterday in Amman's exclusive Forte Grand Hotel, killing an Italian tourist and injuring 15 other people, security officials said.

A hotel employee said a British guest also was killed when he jumped out of a second-floor window to escape the expanding fire. The employee refused to be named.

However, the British Embassy, security officials, and the hotel's general manager later denied any Briton had died.

British Embassy spokesman James Raayoo said three Britons were among the injured and were not in critical condition.

Several hours later, police allowed some reporters into the hotel as they continued the cleanup of the fire that spread through the ground-floor at 6:30 a.m. and was extinguished 90 minutes later.

The lobby's walls, once decorated with attractive paintings, were covered in soot. Pieces of broken chandeliers were scattered on the water-drenched carpets and the European furniture had been reduced to chunks of burned wood.

Charles Barker, the hotel's general manager, said a "preliminary" investigation indicated the blaze was caused by a burning cigarette, carelessly tossed on the carpeting in the lobby of the five-star hotel.

Security officials concurred, but would not totally rule out arson, which has been on the rise in the kingdom as Muslim fundamentalists sought to introduce stricter adherence to Islamic laws.

Asked about rumors of a bomb explosion at the hotel, Barker, a Briton from London, said: "I was in the hotel, and I did not hear any explosion. None of the staff heard an explosion."

Barker said more than 400 people were in the hotel at the time. They included some 240 guests, mostly tourists on Easter excursions from Italy, Spain, Britain, Russia, and the United States. The others were employees.

He said 15 people were hospitalized for burns or smoke inhalation, but could not give their names or a breakdown of their nationalities.

The official news agency, Petra, said that in addition to the Britons, two Italians, three Iraqis and one Jordanian were kept at hospital after six had been treated and discharged.

An Italian Embassy spokesman identified the dead tourist as Michel Ottorino, 43, of Vicenza, northern Italy.

The spokesman, Diego Brasilioli, said Ottorino appeared to have suffered a heart attack as he and his wife ran through the smoke-filled lobby toward an exit.

The eight-story Forte Grand is situated in Amman's plush Shmeilani district. It is one of the largest in Jordan and includes an underground shopping mall.

It was not clear if the shops and boutiques were damaged by the fire just above them.

A fire, blamed on an electrical short circuit, killed one person and injured about a dozen others in another five-star hotel, the Jordan Intercontinental, in March 1993.

A December fire at Amman's largest supermarket, Safeway, injured more than 300 people. (AP)

3 dead, 17 injured in KLM crash Broadcasters Betty Furness dies

AMSTERDAM (AP) — A KLM airliner carrying 24 people crashed-landed at Schiphol Airport shortly after takeoff yesterday. At least three people were killed and 17 injured, according to Dutch Television.

Flight KL433 had just taken off for Cardiff, Wales, when it experienced engine problems and turned back. The twin-engine Saab turboprop overshot the runway and crashed in a muddy field.

There were 21 passengers and

three crew members aboard, the airline said.

Airport spokeswoman M. van der Goot said the cause of the engine problem was not known.

A rescue worker told Dutch radio that after the crash three people walked out of the plane with only minor injuries, but those remaining on board had to await rescue workers.

Rescuers were hindered by lack of a road close to the crash site at Schiphol, which is surrounded by farms.

A farmer living nearby witnessed the crash and used his tractor to transport wounded from the crash site.

"The problem was that no wounded could be taken away. I came over with my tractor to take away the wounded. I took them to the road two or three at a time," the unidentified farmer told Dutch radio.

It was the worst accident involving Schiphol Airport since October 4, 1992, when an El Al Boeing 747 cargo plane lost two engines after taking off.

The jumbo jet crashed into a nearby apartment building while attempting to return for an emergency landing. Four-three people died, most of them on the ground.

SHE will be remembered as one of the grand dames of broadcasting.

Betty Furness, the broadcast journalist, consumer activist, commercial pitchwoman and actress, died here Saturday at Memorial Sloan Kettering Medical Center after a long battle with cancer. She was 78.

Known for her elegant manner, she was also willing to roll up her sleeves and go after the bad guys.

"We were lucky to have her around to back in her glory," said Steve Friedman, who was her longtime producer at NBC's *Today* show.

She began her career as a Hollywood actress in the 1930s, where she appeared in mostly B-movies, but was also in films with Fred Astaire and other top Hollywood

CURT SIMMONS
NEW YORK

assistant for consumer affairs to President Johnson.

Furness followed her presidential administration stints with a job with New York State as director of the state's Consumer Protection Board and as a commissioner of the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs.

In 1974 Furness joined NBC's New York affiliate, where she answered consumer complaints.

By 1977, she began appearing on *Today*, where she remained a contributor until 1992.

Furness battled the cancer for three years, said Friedman. "The way she fought the illness represented her spirit," he said.

Furness was married three times and had a daughter, Barbara, with her first husband, band leader Johnny Green. (Newsday)

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Tour guide - Yaakov Shechter NIS 145

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The plan, mapped out in 1991, to expand the Green Line with 7 new settlements. The history behind the idea, the politics, the geography explained by one of the planners. Visit Modi'in, the city of the future, the Haredi settlement of Kiryat Sefer, Zur Yigal (an extension of Kochav Yair), the Arab triangle of Taibe, Yama, Bakr El Garbiya, a mizpe above Umm Al Facheim. Lunch.
Tour guide - Geographer Edna Zamonsky NIS 145

Wednesday May 4
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Some say, "It's music frozen in time." The architecture of public buildings should be a reflection of the society in which it is born. Is it so? We'll also visit The Mormon University, HU-Mt. Scopus campus, and the new Jerusalem Town Hall complex. Lunch.
Tour guide - Architect David Kroyanker NIS 130

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One dies
Amman
hotel fire

JAMAL HALABY
AMMAN

Hotel employee said a British man was killed when he fell out of a second-floor window during the fire. The employee refused to be interviewed.

More than 400 people were in the hotel at the time. The fire started in the kitchen and spread to the main hall. The hotel was built in 1970 and had 240 rooms. It was owned by a Jordanian company. The fire broke out at about 11 p.m. and was extinguished by the fire department. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

4 alleged Moslem extremists killed in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Police killed three suspected Moslem extremists in a gun battle in the eastern desert of Egypt and a fourth died in an exchange of fire with armed forces, police said.

In both cases, police said the Moslem militants fired first, but no casualties were reported among civilians or police officers.

According to police, three extremists fired on villagers who spotted the radicals hiding in a field at el-Ababda near Matruh, 300 kilometers south of Cairo.

The villagers fired back and injured one of the radicals, who later died.

Police then arrived and gave chase, killing the other two extremists in an exchange of fire, said police officials who insisted on anonymity. The incident happened in the heart of the militants' southern stronghold.

In Cairo, one suspected extremist was shot dead and another arrested, police said. They said the two extremists started shooting because they suspected police were following them, and police returned fire.

More than 350 people have been killed and 735 injured in the militants' two-year campaign of violence aimed at toppling Egypt's secular government and installing strict Islamic rule.

Many of the dead were police and militants, but the extremists also have targeted officials, Christian Copts and foreign tourists.



A soldier patrols outside a house in the Natal province town of Port Shepstone where nine people were killed on Saturday. (Reuters)

Hopes for S. African peace boosted

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — Faint hopes for peace in South Africa were bolstered yesterday by news of the imminent arrival of international statesmen on a mediation mission.

But despite this and the declaration of a state of emergency in Natal province and the KwaZulu black homeland, the death toll carried on rising with at least 61 people shot, backed, or burned to death in the region's killing fields since Thursday's emergency proclamation.

South Africans are pinning hopes for peace on the international mediation and a planned peace meeting bringing together top political leaders to ensure the country's first all-race elections take place unhindered on April 26-28.

A senior African National Congress official

said former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger and Britain's ex-foreign secretary Lord Carrington are due to arrive later this week. Carrington helped negotiate Rhodesia's transition to independent Zimbabwe.

The official, who did not wish to be identified, said talks between the ANC and the Zulu-dominated Inkatha Freedom Party, which is boycotting the elections, would take place over the next few days to prepare the ground for the mediators' arrival.

"My understanding is that Kissinger and Carrington ... will arrive this week," said the ANC official, adding that the mediators' recommendations would not be binding.

"They will be here to mediate, not to

arbitrate," he said.

Speaking in the United States, Kissinger said he was honored to be asked to mediate.

President F.W. de Klerk last Thursday declared a state of emergency in Natal province and Inkatha's heartland KwaZulu, where 300 people were killed in political unrest between Inkatha and ANC supporters during March.

Nine of the 61 people killed in the region since the emergency declaration were massacred near the Natal south coast town of Port Shepstone on Saturday.

The ANC, which is demanding an independent investigation into the massacre of women and children, and survivors said the attack was carried out by Inkatha supporters.

Serbs renew attacks on Gorazde

SARAJEVO (AP) — Bosnian Serbs made new attacks on the besieged Moslem enclave of Gorazde yesterday, a day after a top US official said American forces would not intervene to save the eastern town.

An amateur radio operator in Gorazde said some of the front lines in the area about 48 kilometers southeast of Sarajevo were "literally in flames."

About 65,000 people, mostly Moslems, have been under siege in Gorazde for more than a year even though it was declared a UN "safe zone" last May.

A UN spokesman, Maj. Rob Annink, said Serb troops launched a coordinated infantry, artillery and tank offensive against Gorazde, which the radio of Bosnia's Moslem-led government described as a heavy attack.

Annink said Serbs also had moved three tanks, three mortars and three trucks from the Serb stronghold of Pale, east of Sarajevo, toward Gorazde.

But he admitted that with only four military observers in Gorazde it was not possible to get a complete picture of the fighting.

"The pocket is too big for them to cross the whole of the pocket, and too dangerous," he said. "So we got a limited view."

His comments suggested UN officials thought the situation in Gorazde was more serious than

they had previously acknowledged.

On Sunday, US Defense Secretary William Perry was asked if the United States would be willing to stand by and let Gorazde fall to the Serbs.

"We will not enter the war to stop that from happening," Perry said in a television interview.

Perry also reiterated that the United States would not send in ground troops until a peace accord was signed by all three of Bosnia's warring factions — Serbs, Croats and Moslems.

Croats and Moslems agreed last month to form a federation, but Serbs, who control 70 percent of Bosnia, have refused to be a part of it.

The two-year war in Bosnia has left more than 200,000 people dead and missing and displaced more than half of the former Yugoslav republic's prewar population of 4.3 million.

In Croatia, the army and rebel Serb forces began pulling back heavy weapons Monday under a cease-fire agreement aimed at formally ending their 1991 war.

The agreement, reached last week under Russian-US-backed talks, is also considered a step toward ending the war in Bosnia by isolating Serbs there and pressuring them to accept a peace settlement.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turks kill 18 Kurdish rebels
DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (AP) — Turkish soldiers killed 18 Kurdish guerrillas in two separate clashes in southeastern Turkey yesterday, the regional governor's office said.

The troops killed 12 insurgents in Bingol province, and six others near the town of Silvan, a said.

Guerrillas from the Kurdistan Workers Party have been fighting for autonomy in southeastern Turkey since 1984. The violence has claimed more than 12,000 lives.

apparently threatened later called the police, Vershkov said. The ITAR-Tass news agency said police detained three suspects and were looking for accomplices.

Agostinho da Silva dead at 88
LISBON (AP) — Agostinho da Silva, philosopher and rebel during Portugal's half-century of dictatorship, died Sunday in a Lisbon hospital of complications resulting from a stroke. He was 88.

Da Silva, Portugal's most eminent professor of philosophy, was hospitalized nearly six months ago following a stroke.

He also was an accomplished poet, novelist and critic of the arts, sciences, society and politics. He spoke out for students' rights and frequently used the motto: "Man was born to create, not to work."

Clintons host Easter egg roll
WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Thousands of children tramped across the White House lawn yesterday to roll hard-boiled eggs and catch a glimpse of President Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary.

The kids also got a chance to see the Easter bunny and hunt for colorful wooden eggs signed by the president and first lady hidden in straw. A few were signed by the first family's cat, Socks.

Preparations for the day's event began well before Clinton blew the whistle to start an Easter egg roll.

"I woke up before dawn this morning, and when I got up just at dawn, I already saw the Easter bunnies out here walking around, plotting their strategies for the day and getting ready," he told the crowd.

The Clintons were carrying on a tradition begun more than 180 years ago by President James Madison and his wife, Dolley.

The egg roll was held at the Capitol in those days. President Hayes and his wife, Lucy, moved the event to the White House in 1878 and it has been held there on the south lawn ever since, except during the two world wars.

Bomb kills civil guard in Spain
BILBAO, Spain (Reuters) — A police officer was killed when a bomb exploded under his car as he parked close to his home in the Basque city of Bilbao in northern Spain yesterday, local officials said.

The dead man was named as Fernando Jimenez, 29, a member of the Civil Guard. He was married with a six-year-old daughter and had only been with the Civil Guard for a year.

19 Russians die drinking poison
MOSCOW (Reuters) — At least 19 Russians were killed at the weekend when their passion for drink led them to mistake poisonous methanol for pure alcohol, a civil defense spokesman said yesterday. Another 45 were still in hospital, five of them in serious condition.

The emergency situations ministry said the victims had looted a tanker of methanol at Syzran railway station in central Russia. They said the liquid "smelled exactly like pure alcohol."

Robbers steal a billion rubles
MOSCOW (AP) — Masked and armed bandits have escaped with more than 1 billion rubles (\$564,000) in cash after robbing a Moscow bank.

The four bandits broke into the offices of Torbank on Saturday night, and smashed open a door leading to a room where the money was stored, city police spokesman Vladimir Vershkov said yesterday. A guard who the robbers

Zhirinovsky denounces Jewish family name report

MOSCOW (AP) — A spokesman for Vladimir Zhirinovsky claimed yesterday that special forces in Kazakhstan forged documents showing the nationalist leader had a Jewish last name at birth.

Spokesman Grigory Serebrennikov, in comments to the ITAR-Tass news agency, denied the report a day earlier that Zhirinovsky's original surname was Eidelstein and that he changed it when he was 18.

In brief comments in Finland yesterday, Zhirinovsky himself also denounced the report.

"I know all that. It's crazy; it's not true," Zhirinovsky said through an interpreter as he arrived in Helsinki for a two-day visit. "It's got nothing to do with reality. I know my own family roots."

Zhirinovsky never mentions his original surname in his 1993 autobiography and vehemently has denied either he or his parents were Jewish. Because of his attacks on Jews, his origins have political significance in Russia.

The public records were found by a reporter working for The Associated Press and Cable News Network in four archives in Alma-Ata, the capital of Kazakhstan, where Zhirinovsky was born and raised.

The records do not say specifically who his father was, but Zhirinovsky's surname was listed on his birth registration as Eidelstein. Documents show he applied for and received permission to change his name from Eidelstein

Cambodian police sent to release US hostage

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — A police unit has been sent to obtain the release of an American relief worker being held captive in southern Cambodia by Khmer Rouge guerrillas, a government official said yesterday.

Melissa Himes, 24, of Winston-Salem, N.C., and three Cambodian colleagues have been detained since last Thursday in a village in Kampot province where she went to try to settle a dispute over the drilling of water wells.

Khan Savoeun, a secretary of state in the Interior Ministry, did not say what the police unit, led by a senior ministry official, planned to do to gain her release.

The Geneva-based Christian relief agency Food for the Hungry International said yesterday that in response to the guerrillas' ransom demands, the group has offered to provide a water-drilling rig and training in a Khmer Rouge area.

"We are OK. As far as I understand, they want three wells. They are being kind to us in providing food and water. Tell my parents not to worry," said a note from Himes, quoted by Robin Shell, a spokesman for the relief group.

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For a broader consensus

DEPUTY Defense Minister Mordechai Gur performed an important service yesterday by persuading the Rabbinical Council to declare that the army must be kept out of political and religious disputes. According to Gur, last week's halachic ruling by three leading rabbis - which decreed that soldiers must obey orders to forcibly evacuate settlers from their homes - was not brought up in his discussion with the council. But the ruling and its repercussions were obviously what made Gur ask for the meeting.

Perhaps more than anyone else in the government, Gur realizes that the explosive ruling should not be taken lightly. If tested by events, many in the army would be torn by the dilemma it creates: the need to decide between the duty to follow legal military orders and the impulse to obey conscience and religious conviction.

Unlike many of his cabinet colleagues, Gur seems to realize that one of the greatest threats the nation faces at this juncture is the very real possibility of civil strife. On the left of the political spectrum there are those who say, both openly and privately, not only that such strife is inevitable, but that it may not be undesirable if it eliminates the opposition to the current peace process. Typically, Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni criticized Gur's efforts to achieve understanding with the religious community as a display of unseemly groveling.

On the extreme right, too, there are voices almost gleefully forecasting a violent showdown between "true believers" and the "treasonous leftists." True, the number on either side of those afflicted with such insanity is small, but it does not take many to start a lethal conflagration.

Regrettably, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has paid little attention to the danger. It is doubtful that he would have used inflammatory, highly provocative expressions about his opponents - particularly the residents of the Golan, Judea, Samaria, and Gaza - had he understood how frayed their nerves are and how restive the fringes on both sides of the political spectrum are. Sending Gur to talk to the rabbis, and Rabin's own meeting with opposition leaders on Friday, may be an indication of a welcome change.

Rabin's decision against evacuating Jews from Hebron, too, seems to indicate that he has recognized the intensity of the opposition to such a move. His assurances to the Knesset opposition factions and to settlement leaders that the Oslo agreement would be faithfully observed, and that no settlements would be uprooted until the "final status" negotiations are concluded, may signal that he is finally aware of the need for a broader consensus. If nothing else, the decision rendered the unfortunate intervention of the militant rabbis in what should be the exclusive domain of the courts quite irrelevant.

Half-hearted half measures

THE world will not react with the same uproar to the confirmed "ethnic cleansing" of 20 innocent people in Bosnia over the weekend as it did to the Hebron massacre. The Hebron atrocity was the work of one deranged murderer, but "ethnic cleansing" continues to be practiced as policy by all sides in the Bosnian conflict.

Bosnia Serbs in Prijedor slaughtered 17 Moslem and three Croat non-combatants during a murder and arson rampage. In the surrounding Banja Luka region a drive to expunge all traces of non-Serbian presence is reported. UN monitors have warned that violence against minorities had intensified across northern Bosnia and that local Serb authorities were failing to take action to stop it.

A proposed evacuation of terrified civilians from the targeted "cleansing" area has put the United Nations in a dilemma - should it save lives by doing the Serbs' ethnic cleansing for them? The answer of course is yes, the lives should be saved, especially since the UN-designated havens of safety for Bosnia's minorities have proved to be yet another optimistic fiction of this war. The reality is that all 7,000 Moslems and 3,000 Croats living among the 55,000 Serbs of Prijedor may have nowhere else to go. Croatia has reached its limit in receiving refugees and the anti-immigrant backlash in Europe is closing more and more doors there.

One other fiction is that the war is virtually over, since the halt to the shelling of Sarajevo and the Serb-Croat cease-fire accord over the Serb enclave of Krajina inside Croatia. Bosnia is like a vessel leaking blood - to staunch one source merely intensifies the flow elsewhere.

In the eastern Moslem enclave of Gorazde - another so-called "safe zone" - Serb artillery has mercilessly pounded this large town since the Sarajevo cease-fire and UN officials are fearful of what might happen if it is overrun. Serbs have now grabbed 70 percent of Bosnia and show little inclination to accept patchy peace accords as more than breathing spaces in which to concentrate on further expansion. Many of the tanks removed from Sarajevo are in action in central Bosnia and neither the UN nor NATO shows any inclination to act on the air-strike threat to protect the Moslem havens. Peace in Sarajevo has been a success so far, but it has proved to be a half measure. Regrettably, the international effort to follow it up and silence all the guns in Bosnia has run out of steam.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THREAT TO DEMOCRACY

Sir, - One aspect of Chaim Herzog's excellent article ("A dagger in democracy's back," March 18) deserves more attention than it was given: the fact that the threat to Israel's democracy - actually to Israel's very existence - comes entirely from religious groups. We are witnessing in the territories the inevitable end of a messianic movement, with all the disillusion, despair and moral breakdown that this entails. The situation has been made worse by the movement's rabbis' steady incitement of the message that the Land of Israel is more important than the State of Israel; that Halacha is more important than the law of the land; and that messianism is more important than reality.

The massacre in Hebron was not only an attempt to derail the peace process. Goldstein was shooting at the State of Israel for the sake of the Land of Israel; at Israel's rule of law for the sake of Halacha; and at reality for the sake of the Messiah. In other words, he was firing the first shots of the civil war that not a few of those like him seem to want.

The settlers' spiritual leaders are largely responsible for the situation that has evolved and it is unrealistic to expect that they will do anything to defuse matters.

Moderate Arabs could do much to help. However, all the settlers' spiritual leaders have done so far is pour petrol on the flames with a flow of halachic rulings declaring that the government has no authority, calling on soldiers to disobey orders, and exhorting the settlers to die rather than retreat from an inch of the Land of Israel. They have a great deal of soul-searching to do.

I hope that Chaim Herzog speaks more plainly to them in private than he dared to do in public.

NACHUM APPLETON
Ra'anana.

Sir, - When Chaim Herzog spouts democracy in his article and then condemns, slanders and wants to outlaw and jail without trial a political entity that doesn't conform to his views, it makes his words so hypocritical it churns my stomach.

Mr. Herzog doesn't know what a democracy is. When someone wants to suppress any individual or group before they have committed an unlawful act, that certainly is not democratic. Mr. Herzog condemns whole groups of people without trial for one man's action.

Jerusalem. **ZVI SCHWARTZ**

CALUMNY

Sir, - Chaim Herzog's characteristically cogent article, "A dagger in democracy's back" (March 18) contains an uncharacteristically tendentious generalization: "The US is the breeding ground for Jewish extremists," which was motivated by his anger at an ugly demonstration on one of his visits in New York.

In this unfortunate error, the distinguished former president, MK and IDF leader echoes the calumny uttered by others, including government representatives, that the egregious act of one devout Jew from Brooklyn condemns

all other Jews from there and elsewhere in the US.

As one of many Israelis who was born and bred in the US - in Brooklyn, dare I say, Borough Park - I object to this generalization, for it is untrue.

Despite the terrorist acts of some in Herzog's native Ireland, I would similarly protest against anyone who generalized that their treachery warrants a blanket condemnation of many or most other Irishmen.

Jerusalem. **M. BERLIN**

DEAFENING SILENCE

Sir, - Since the publication of the story regarding the execution of a 78-year-old Iranian Jew, the follow-up story regarding his two years in prison spent almost entirely in chains and the horrible torture before his murder, there has been only one condemnation from the US, as reported in a short article on the back page of *The Jerusalem Post*.

Have we become so desensitized to all of the many murders of both Jews and Arabs that the terrible torture-murder of one old Jew does not touch us? Where are all of the human rights groups that are so quick to condemn Israel for mistreating Arabs? Where are the editorials from *The Jerusalem Post*? Where is the media coverage on television?

The silence is deafening. Herzliya. **LAUREL J. LASKY**

THE ONE AND ONLY JERUSALEM

Sir, - We were appalled to read in your report of March 18 that many Tel Avivians think it is too dangerous to venture to Jerusalem. These pusillanimous people are missing such a lot of beauty and pleasure.

We walk in Jerusalem (Western part only) after dark, which we would not do in our residential suburb in London. Jerusalem has beautiful architecture and its stonework is such a refreshing contrast to the awful sameness of concrete Tel Aviv. There is a quality in Jerusalem not readily found in materialistic Tel Aviv.

Wake up, Tel Avivians. You cannot all be such hedonists. Bad things happen anywhere - London, even Tel Aviv, not only Jerusalem. You don't know what you are missing by staying away. So come and find out.

HILARY AND PHILIP MAURICE
Jerusalem and London.

AFTER weeks of delay, the Clinton administration finally decided to send Patriot missile interceptors to South Korea.

The US sent these defensive missiles because North Korea keeps spending its scarce resources on the development of offensive missiles of increasing range and capability, and on nuclear and chemical weapons for them to deliver.

The secret North Korean nuclear weapons program has received worldwide attention through the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency to inspect its nuclear facilities. Less well known is North Korea's missile development program, which is equally shrouded in secrecy.

That secrecy was lifted slightly by *Jane's Defence Weekly*, which last month reported that satellite surveillance had revealed a mock-up of a new two-stage intermediate range missile at the Sanjam Dong research and development facility in North Korea.

In a program nearly 20 years old, North Korea has developed a whole series of improved ballistic missiles. Pyongyang appears to be following the example of China, which developed a series of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles in the 1960s and 1970s, often surprising Western intelligence as each new weapon was unveiled.

China also has been a role model for North Korea in another way. The Chinese leadership has shown that applying huge resources to military technology can pay off in international deference, even while denying their own people basic political and human rights.

Kim Il-Sung knows that one way to get what he wants is to brandish both nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them. Thus, North Korea's nuclear weapons program is a deadly serious effort to get the Bomb, while the purpose of its missile program is to deliver it. Once in hand, these weapons will be used to blackmail Japan, the US and the international community for recognition and financial support.

JAMES T. HACKETT

To achieve that kind of leverage, Kim Il-Sung needs a missile that can deliver a nuclear weapon to Japanese cities and American bases. By 1989, North Korea was producing a 590-km. Scud C and selling it to Iran and Syria.

But its big break came with the collapse of the Soviet Union, when

The US and Israel must act now to defuse Korea's Bomb in the making

dozens of Russian missile experts suddenly became available to apply advanced missile technologies to the North Korean effort. Work began in 1989 on a completely redesigned Scud that became known as the Nodong 1, with an estimated range of up to 1,200 km. This model, which was unveiled last year, greatly increased interest in missile defenses in Japan.

It was known, however, that North Korean and Russian engineers were also working on an entirely new missile, dubbed the Nodong 2, which was believed to have two stages and an estimated range of 1,920 km. Now, *Jane's* reports that the new missile sighted in North Korea is much more powerful than that.

THE FIRST stage appears to be the size of a Chinese CSS-2, the intermediate-range missile that China first deployed in 1970 and later sold to Saudi Arabia. The upper stage of the new missile looks like a Nodong 1. These two stages together would give the Taepo Dong 2 an estimated range in excess of 3,200 km. Such a missile could reach not only any target in

South Korea or Japan, but US bases on Guam and Okinawa as well. It could easily reach Israel from anywhere in Iran.

The intelligence community is justifiably cautious. The mock-up may be a dummy, rolled out just to influence the current dispute between Pyongyang and Washington. And even if it is real, it is likely to be years before it is operational.

On the other hand, it is undisputed that North Korea has a rapidly advancing missile development program. And there is the wild card of Russian engineers and the advanced technologies they can provide.

It is worth remembering the words of Lt. Im Young-sun, who defected from North Korea and told a press conference in Seoul last August that his army unit was working on construction of four underground launch sites for missiles "to attack US military bases in Japan and Guam." At the time, the mention of Guam as a target for North Korean missiles was met with snickers. But now the report of a satellite sighting of just such a missile gives Lt. Im's statement new credibility.

Sending Patriots to intercept US and South Korean missiles is the right thing to do, but they should be sent by air, not by slow boat. North Korea's new missile also shows the urgency of US and Israeli programs to develop improved theater missile defenses.

Most important are the US Army's Theater High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) program, which is expected to have a new missile interceptor ready for use as early as 1996, the US Navy's plans for ship-based ballistic missile defenses, and Israel's Arrow missile interceptor program.

Despite severe economic difficulties, North Korea is giving its new missiles top priority. The US and Israel should give a similar high priority to their missile defenses.

The writer is policy operations manager of Titan Systems, San Diego.

Africa's uneven playing field

IT is surely a party's democratic right to choose whether or not it will participate in an election. Under normal circumstances, political parties participate because elections are the acknowledged democratic means by which governments come and go. Having accepted the rules of the game, parties have no problems in participating in the institutions and processes flowing from a legitimate constitution.

Our situation in South Africa is rather different, however, primarily because the interim constitution inadequately reflects the national will. We have rejected the constitution, and, being consistent, have also refused to participate in elections called in terms of this constitution to be held April 26-28.

The reasons for this are simple. From the commencement of the negotiations over the constitution, we have consistently sought an all-inclusive constitutional settlement, following which elections would be called and a non-racial democracy would come into being.

Anticipating, however, that our political opponents would seek to deny us both the opportunity to negotiate and its constitutional product, we stated right at the outset of negotiations that we would accept the new constitution and participate in its institutions and processes only if we had been party to the decisions reached.

However, this was not to be. A lengthy Machiavellian manipulation commenced, right at the start of negotiations, with attempts to marginalize our Inkatha Freedom Party.

There isn't the space to detail our problems, but as examples of our difficulties, it is important to note that every single submission we made - on the transition process,

MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI

on the form of the state and on violence - was totally ignored. Again, while we were party to the decision on the means by which the election date was to be set, it is important to note that the date itself was set without the agreed-to

From the start, the ANC and the government connived to keep the Zulus out of the elections

preconditions being satisfied. This was the last straw. It led to our formal withdrawal from the Kempton Park talks (on constitutional negotiations) on July 2.

FROM THEN on, we engaged the government and the ANC in bilateral and trilateral talks, but again, it became abundantly clear that they had no intention of taking our concerns seriously.

This is why mediation is so important. The ANC and the IFP have agreed that the prominent international mediators could play a meaningful role in bridging the divide and, if they succeed, we believe it is still possible to finalize an all-inclusive settlement that will permit us to accept the constitution and participate in elections - which constitutionally can be held any time until the end of September. Unfortunately, however, politi-

cal temperatures are rising. In addition to its war against the IFP during the 1980s, the ANC attempted in 1990 and 1993 to overthrow the KwaZulu government, and is attempting to do so once again. It is trying to create a situation justifying the central government's military intervention in KwaZulu and the takeover of the region's administration by the all-powerful, ANC-dominated and unconstitutional Transitional Executive Council.

Furthermore, violence is reaching civil war proportions - more than 50 Zulus were massacred in a peaceful march in Johannesburg last Monday - and we foresee this type of savagery continuing as our opponents try to annihilate the IFP once and for all. Thursday the government declared a state of emergency in Natal province and KwaZulu. We condemn this. It will only make fair elections impossible.

Irrespective of these signs of others' desperation, we remain adamant that we have the choice as to whether we participate or do not participate in elections. The government and the ANC have known from the start of negotiations that their conniving could well result in our rejecting the constitution, so there is nothing surprising in our having adhered to our principles.

Since democracy is freedom to choose, we call upon the government and the ANC to respect our choice, or to facilitate our entering the elections. They will decide whether the IFP joins the process or irrevocably withdraws from it.

The writer, chairman of the Inkatha Freedom Party and chief minister of the KwaZulu government, is a prince and descendant of Shaka Zulu.
(Newsday)

TV tyranny

HARVEY EDINOFF

IN 1989, five companies were given franchises to broadcast cable television across the country. At the same time, the subscribers' monthly fee was fixed by the Communications Ministry's cable commissioner.

That fee was based on assumptions which turned out to be false. The anticipated growth of the viewing audience was significantly underestimated, and programming costs overestimated.

Although this is now evident, nothing is being done by Cable Commissioner Michal Rafnelli to correct the price structure. Indeed, the Golden Channels has just announced an increase in monthly rates!

After the franchises were granted, four of the five operators formed ICP Ltd. to produce a package of channels which were then, as now, broadcast simultaneously by each company. The fifth firm, although not one of the participants in ICP, agreed to buy its program and broadcast them in the same way as the other four.

This arrangement was approved by the cartels commissioner, only after receiving cart approval for the first three-year period. In December 1993, the court refused to renew its approval of the arrangement, and ordered that ICP be disbanded within 45 days. It stated that the savings brought about by group buying had not been passed on to subscribers.

Cable subscribers shouldn't be forced to pay for stations they never watch

On January 25, journalist Tommy Lapid told the Knesset finance committee that an average subscription brought in NIS 1,200 annually. About NIS 120 of this is spent on acquiring, translating and preparing the material, and a further NIS 60 goes to cover costs incurred in presenting the material to the viewer.

In dollar terms, the cable industry will gross \$280 million in 1994, and out of this will pay only about \$40m. for all the material we see. This leaves a massive \$240m. to cover operating expenses, marketing, interest on borrowed capital and depreciation.

CLEARLY, WE are paying too much for what we are getting. So what are we getting? In my case, a small amount of material I want to see, and a great deal in which I have no interest. I have no interest in German, French, Turkish, Arabic, Indian or Italian broadcasts. I realize that there are those who want these broadcasts, and there is a simple way of dealing with this. It's called "tiering."

In America, the subscriber pays only for the channels he wants. He can also buy packages of channels, or programs on an "a la carte" basis.

In Israel, we have two choices: Take it or leave it. Many subscribers would happily leave it, if they could receive the New Channel 2 without having to rely on cable. Recent surveys have shown that more cable subscribers view Channel 2 and Channel 1 than all the other cable programs combined. But we all pay for these channels anyway.

Instead, viewers could be offered different packages by the cable operators. One package could be, say, films, CNN, BBC, or some other combination of English-speaking programs. Package Two could be, say, The Children's Channel, MTV, The Family Channel, and so on. Sports programs could be included in a separate package.

All packages would be in addition to Channels 1 and 2, as the cable operators are required by law to broadcast these. The subscriber would buy only the additional packages he desires, and enjoy a substantially reduced monthly premium.

Tiering would reduce the cable operators' income, but might attract additional subscribers. It has been reported that Tevel, the cable operator in the Tel Aviv area, has applied for permission to broadcast films on a "pay-per-view." This would offer the viewer a choice of films at various hours of the day. If the viewer wants to see a film, he "orders" it, either by punching codes into the equipment provided by the operator, or by telephone. Either way, he is charged only for the films he views.

Unless viewers are given a full range of choices, we will continue, paying for a lot of material we don't want to see.

It is time for the cable commissioner to intervene and form a consumers' "watchdog" group to safeguard the public interest. After all, we are spending \$280 million to cable operators and the cable commissioner what we want.

We don't have to just take it any more.

The writer works in the local film industry.

Musical megastars get together to sing Argov's praises

THERE were three admirers for every one of Alexander "Sasha" Argov's compositions on Sunday night, as the Mann Auditorium was packed for a nationally broadcast homage to the creator of some 1,000 songs. It was a birthday present that the 80-year-old giant of Israeli light music will not soon forget. Argov sat in the first row of the Tel Aviv hall, enjoying a tribute to himself presented by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. The concert was broadcast live on both radio and television.

Argov was undoubtedly on cloud nine as singers such as old-timers Haim, Dani Litani and Netanel joined by the younger generation of stars like Yizhar Cohen and Ahinoam Nini, to perform a wide selection of his songs.

"Argov's greatness is that he has created a language we weren't used to before. He created a whole new world," Shimon Cohen, the event's music director, explained last week.

Cohen was on the podium to lead the IPO in two orchestral suites of music by Argov, and to accompany all the singers.

"Argov and his contemporaries, such as Amiran, Zeira and Vilenski, tried to create something out of nothing. They came here to a musical desert and created everything that we are now hearing on the radio."

Among his best-loved songs are *Erey Be Mescha*, *Shir Mishmar*, *She'at Omeret Lo*, *Adoni Hashofet*, *She'or Dolek Behalonech* and

Hakol Zahav.

Cohen suggests that once you hear an Argov song "it's virtually impossible to accept the lyrics with a different tune. While other lyrics have been set to music by several composers, once Argov writes something there is no point to changing it at all. Argov serves the text. His major aim is to serve the subject matter and not the music."

Argov has not written only songs, although he has more than a thousand to his credit. He has also written extensively for theater and film.

And he wrote the most original musical ever created in Israel, *King Solomon and the Cobbler Shalmi* (*Shlomo Hamelech ve Shalmi Hasandlar*). The suite from the musical which concluded

the concert in Tel Aviv was a most fitting finale to a grand evening of great melodies and touching songs.

Cohen adds that although Argov was writing for many years, no one really knew about his work for almost four decades "until a miracle happened."

"Suddenly Matti Caspi began singing the music of Sasha to his audience and suddenly, he made him accepted. Argov was writing 30 years before his time."

"Matti Caspi gave the final stamp of approval to his music and today young ones know the music of Argov much better than people of his own generation."

Argov has been setting to music

lyrics of Israel's greatest poets from Haim Guri to Alexander Pen and from A. Hillel to Ya'acov Shabrai.

He has mostly collaborated with Haim Hefer. "Bereshit" (In the Beginning), the song that opened the concert, is an example of Hefer's pointed commentary on a world which destroys itself. And the music is as harsh as the lyrics.

Cohen suggests that this is not really light music. "It is art song. It is leader," he says.

He adds that Argov has always composed at the piano, never thinking about the orchestra. "He never orchestrated a thing. He was always interested only in the human voice and the piano, transmitting a message in the clearest and purest possible way."



Sasha Argov. (Michal Heyman)

The full house at the Mann Auditorium suggested that there is

audience for an evening of light music at its very best performed by this country's leading orchestras.

The way the orchestra played, both the suites and when it accompanied the impressive array of singers, shows that when the IPO wants to it can do justice not only to Mahler and Beethoven, but also to the composers whose musical output has become the bread and butter of many Israeli generations.

Most who were there Sunday night, joining the orchestra in more than a few singalongs shed a tear of joy honoring the man who made Israeli music what it really is, and in the process having a great time listening to some of the finest music ever written here.

Drama plays second fiddle to rococo set, costumes in 'Amadeus'

THEATER REVIEW
NAOMI DOUDAI

AMADEUS

By Peter Shaffer. Direction, Michael Gurevitch. Hebrew, Gadi Roli. Sets, Adrian Vaux. Costumes, Edna Sobol. Lighting, Yehiel Orgal. Hebrew title, *Amadeus*. At Haifa Municipal Theater.

Costanza: Rama Messinger. Salieri: Moshe Becker. Mozart: Alon Ophir. Emperor: Josef. Shimon Lev-Ari.

Following on the famous film, *Amadeus* obviously runs into a problem. Competing with a cast and crew of unmatched excellence is liable to prove an insurmountable challenge.

The Haifa production has no such problem. With Adrian Vaux's sets and Edna Sobol's costumes stealing the show from both playwright and actors, the rest is reduced to secondary importance.

Vaux's riot of rococo, gold-encrusted flatware screens with its vine-festooned columns, gilded cherubim and gold-tasseled drapes, together with Sobol's parade of gorgeously adorned characters, comprises the most convincing rhetoric of the evening.

The rest is less drama than a death mask with a ghoulish, Victorian villain ultimately managing to turn it into a vengeful melodrama with musical underpinnings.

Moshe Becker's Salieri, a baleful, green-eyed monster, dominates with monologues mainly outstanding for their total lack of subtlety and general sensitivity to the role.

Becker's blatant upstaging overshadows Alon Ophir's Mozart and Rama Messinger's Costanza. As the mischievous genius and his mettlesome wife, these two manage an engaging and delightful ensemble that is not seen to full advantage.

Ophir's Mozart, for all that it appears to take off Tom Hulce of film fame, still blazes with genuine exuberance and charm. With Messinger as his sparkling wife, the two project the title piece vividly.

If only Becker's sinister characterization had not been allowed to cut across their pranks to submerge them finally in the sentimental melodrama and pitiful parody of the composer's tragic end. If only the director had sustained his otherwise admirable control of the production with a judicious balance between the principals, if only, if only....

For all that, some of the smaller parts charge the atmosphere with authentic period elegance and luster. Thus Shimon Lev-Ari as the foppish Emperor Josef the Second is engaging. Michael Korsh as an excellent, sparkling new-bearer, and Mordechai Ben-Ze'ev as an Italianate Director of the Imperial Opera are equally enchanting.

Shakarian's star shines even brighter

THE Haifa Ballet made quite an impression last month at Jerusalem's Sherover Theater.

The ballet, directed by Adam and Elena Pasternak, featured a star as its lead and had other impressive immigrant dancers who enriched the program.

Since her arrival here, several years ago, Gayana Shakarian, former prima ballerina of the Armenian Ballet, has maintained, and perhaps even enhanced, the aura and sparkle of her dancing - the brilliance in detail, the clarity in technique.

In fact, her star quality was dazzling in the highlight of the program - the pas-de-deux from Khachaturian's *Gayane*.

The four-act work has not often been staged in full since its debut (in Persia) 50 years ago.

The story is Armenian - about a collective farm and love and war - but the duet is closer in spirit to the much performed pas-de-deux from *Le Corsaire* for its opportunities to show off spectacular



ROTTEN TO THE CORE - Former Sex Pistols singer Johnny Rotten meets his wax portrait at Madame Tussaud's Rock Circus in London. The meeting coincides with the launch of the seminal punk-rock singer's autobiography. (Reuters)

Queen of Soul's latest song selection is awfully hard to R.E.S.P.E.C.T.

NEW RELEASES

TIFZAH AGASSI

Way back in the Sixties, Aretha Franklin was more than the Queen of Soul - she was the voice of certainty.

"R.E.S.P.E.C.T." is a battle cry which has not been diminished by the war of attrition that followed. Unfortunately the same cannot be said of the song-picking judgment of Reverend Franklin's little girl, the one with the God-given voice.

Aretha Franklin, Greatest Hits (1980-1994) (Hed Arzi) is very uneven. There's no doubt that Aretha's voice is still effortlessly magnificent. However, most of these songs have only a fraction of the verve of the oldies that are still her trademark.

Notable low points are such vapid confessions as "Doctor's Orders." Its empty musical calories are matched by the thick, white sugar frosting of "United Together." The sweet, unconvincing story they tell is fleshed out by the soap opera of "Jump to It (My Baby Calls)" and "Willing To Forget" - apparently just about everything.

NEW RELEASES

TIFZAH AGASSI

Other pop ditties like "Who's Zoomin' Who" and "Freeway of Love" have more spunk. But one good hook does not make a great song.

"A Deeper Love" is much more solid. With the lyrics "People let me tell ya I work hard every day I get up outta bed I put on my clothes / Cause I got bills to pay" Franklin gets down to believable business. It gives her a real base from which to testify about the Gospel-sung "deeper love" that gives her the power to avoid the traps of looking for "handouts" and "welfare, stealin'" and "dealin'."

Let's hope that this new song, featured in Whoopi Goldberg's film *Sister Act 2*, indicates the direction she will continue to follow. Its production team of David Cole and Robert Cliviles provide a much needed respite from the overblown, unconvincing productions she's been indulging in.

Meanwhile, hard-core Franklin fans can comfort themselves with a number of vocal collaborations that are a good cut above the usual radio fare.

"I Knew You Were Waiting (For Me)" sung with George Michael and "Ever Changing Times" with Michael McDonald are fine pop. And "You Make Me Feel (Like A Natural Woman)" features Bonnie Raitt who, for all her recorded gushing about how much she admires Aretha, sounds more inspiring than the vocal giant at her side.

Aside from "A Deeper Love" there is one song on which Franklin makes the most of her legendary gifts. On "I Dreamed A Dream" from *Les Miserables* she dispenses with puff and shares what sounds like her pretty battered heart. The Queen of Soul may not be happy, but she is alive and well and still quite capable of telling it like it is.

Interestingly enough this song, with its title so similar to the slogan "I Have A Dream," was recorded live at the 1993 Presidential Inaugural Gala. It's a timely song for a demanding era. And Franklin's insistence that no disappointment be allowed to kill the dream manages to be downright jubilant.

Franklin may still live up to the promise of her youth. When she was 18 she recorded a little known humor-filled gospel number called "Are You Sure?" It was effortless and totally inspired. Hopefully her next greatest hits collection will include many more songs of that pre-glitz caliber.

Russian guest conductor fails his Schumann test with IPO

CONCERT ROUNDUP

RUSSIAN conductor Yuri Temirkanov's second program with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra was again a one-sided affair, featuring three romantic works: Weber's *Oberon* overture, Schumann's Symphony No. 4 in D minor and, finally, the Brahms violin concerto.

Temirkanov's real test was the Schumann symphony, which he did not exactly pass with flying colors. True, Schumann symphonies pose great interpretative problems and only very few conductors are able to master them effectively. Regrettably, Temirkanov is not among them, and his reading sounded superficial, indifferent and one-dimensional, progressing linearly without sonoral and musical depth.

The second part of the concert was the Brahms concerto, featuring Itzhak Perlman. Perlman is, of course, Perlman, and his glowing tone and warm lyricism, his beautiful cantilenas and his dramatic insight and impeccable virtuosity are always most welcome treats, but the concerto, despite its unsalable greatness, has long lost its impact.

It has been heard so many times, played by the greatest soloists that it now, regrettably, has entirely lost what John Cage called the "singular, direct encounter with music" effect. When we listen to the Brahms concerto or similar works we merely recall from our private and collective memory what has been stored there for ages, permitting no new experiences.

Mann Auditorium, Tel Aviv, March 28. Benjamin Bar-Am

A PREMIERE-studded selection of modern music, and an abundance of different styles, was offered by the 21st Century Ensemble, conducted by Zoltan Nagy from Hungary, in this season's second concert in the Meet the 21st Century series, at the Jerusalem Music Center.

Sealed Room for 12 wind and string instruments by Schidlowsky, the Israeli music representative among these premieres, mirrors in sound the traumas experienced during the Gulf War.

Realistic imitations of events are avoided, but associations are evoked unambiguously. Combinations of long drawn-out, oppressive notes and forceful rhythmic motifs accumulate to a dense, menacing atmosphere of acute tension and impending disaster.

Stravinsky's Concertino for 12, in its local premiere, recalls his *Histoire du Soldat*, from about the time of the Concertino's first version (1920), with its incisive rhythms and the weirdness of its obligato violin (Albert Gantman). Although still comparatively mild when regarded from today's perspective, it helps to understand where, among others, Ligeti's Piano Concerto comes from.

Ligeti's Piano Concerto, also a local premiere, was undisputedly the climax of the evening. Syncopated rhythms of split-second precision at the start were only the foreshadowings of the sonic events that were to follow, building up a tremendous impact.

In this work, Ligeti stretches the concept of contrast to its utmost limits. It is realized on almost all possible levels: between the highest and the lowest registers, sounded simultaneously on the piano; between a low, long double-bass note and high, short woodwind motifs; between calm, soothing strings punctured by savage outbursts of percussion; and between percussive, relentless hammering on the piano and soft,

CONCERT ROUNDUP

elastic figurations, simultaneously and in alternation, to name but a few. All these combine to hold the listener spellbound in an increasingly forceful grip up to the explosive end.

The enormously intricate and demanding piano solo was performed superbly by Michal Tal. Nagy conducted the works with authoritative command and precision.

Jerusalem Music Center Mishkenot Sha'ananim, in collaboration with the Voice of Music, March 20. Ury Eppstein

THE Rainbow Tribe's three members play nine instruments - no doubt the utmost use one can make of limited manpower. Daniel Ahaviv plays electric violin, electric mandolin and African drum, Alberto Bohbouth plays keyboards, while Emmanuel Almosino is on clarinet, kalimba, mbira, percussion, and didgeridoo.

Although presenting their music as "ethnic," the ethnicity is represented not so much by the playing but by some of the instruments themselves, by a distinct African note of the mbira (thumb piano) and of the drumming, and by occasional Middle Eastern intervals on the clarinet.

The predominantly improvisational, highly inventive "New Age" stylistic playing leaves the ethnic elements far behind.

After a colorful round-the-instrumental-world tour, the Tribe landed safely on the familiar shores of the square dance, topping it off with a Hassidic homecoming on the clarinet and violin, adorned, of all things, by the didgeridoo (Aboriginal wooden trumpet), for a welcome change. Casa Argentina, March 19. Ury Eppstein

THE first performance of a new Israeli work, Shlomo Dubnov's Sonata for cello and piano, opened an evening of 20th-century music for these instruments, presented by Hillel and Ruth Zori.

The Sonata's beginning is a deceptively Romantic, but the elegiac singing of the cello is soon placed into its modernist perspective by distorting utterances of the piano. The cello's lyricism and the piano's denials develop into a gripping dialogue in which each maintained its independence, even up to a feeling of struggle, while nevertheless proceeding in a remarkably cohesive manner.

Praiseworthy as the effort of offering exclusively 20th-century

CONCERT ROUNDUP

composition is, it defies its purpose because the expected audience simply stays away.

The old trick of sandwiching modern works in between pieces of more common appeal still seems to render a better service to the newer pieces.

In this case, the loss was entirely that of those who did not attend. What they missed was an uncommonly attractive selection of little-known cello and piano works from Debussy's still 19th-century-rooted Sonata (1915) to Britten's highly eventful and spirited Sonata in C major. Lukas Foss's witty *Capriccio* and Noam Sheriff's *Confessions* for cello solo, representing the mainstream of Israeli music.

What they also missed was the performance of two young, highly talented, forceful musical personalities - each in his own, very individual way - who display a sense of genuine involvement in the music they are playing.

Ticho House, Jerusalem, March 17. Ury Eppstein

THE opening night of the Musical Passover festival at Beit Daniel in Zichron Ya'acov was successful above all because of flutist Er'ella Talmi.

Playing with charm and ease, Talmi brought Mozart's Flute Quartet K.285 to a real festive level, displaying a silvery smooth tone, excellent virtuosity and fool-proof technique. It was a pure joy to hear such a flowing rendition of the quartet in which one revealed in the musicality of Talmi and the pure essence of the piece itself.

Talmi also performed *Three Monologues* for flute solo which were written by her husband Yoav Talmi. While some members of the audience had problems with this contemporary composition, it showcased not only the flutist's excellent mastery of her instrument but also the care of the composer both for the instrument he wrote for, and to the woman who plays it.

Another contemporary piece on the program was Schmitke's piano quintet that left even more members of the rather conservative audience uncomfortable.

It was performed with devotion and dedication by pianist Emanuel Krasovsky and the Gertler Quartet, but never reached the musical depths of the composition itself. It was, however, much better played than the concluding Brahms quartet Opus 51 No. 1 which showcased the Gertler Quartet in less than peak form. A pity it was, because this is one of the finest chamber music pieces in the repertoire. It was, all in all, a far from festive event that left one rather disappointed.

Michael Ajzenstadt

Libi's Warm Corner
LIBI - The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defense

Haifa Residents
On the occasion of Independence Day, members of Youth Movements will soon deliver to all mailboxes in the city blue and white envelopes containing an appeal for contributions to Libi by Mayor Amram Mitzna and Libi Chairman, Major-General (Res.) Daniel Matt.

We call on you to open your purses and hearts and contribute generously to Libi - The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defense

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 1994

Bezek agrees to carry out development plan in Azerbaijan

BEZEK has agreed to carry out a comprehensive development program for telecommunications in Azerbaijan.

Bezek officials agreed to prepare a memorandum of understanding toward the signing of such an accord during a meeting yesterday with Azerbaijan Communications Minister Sirouz Hussein.

Bezek and the Azerbaijani gov-

ernment plan to establish a joint company for operating international telecommunications, including an overseas phone exchange and a satellite station.

The company will be operated jointly for a decade.

A second project planned is the upgrading of public telephone exchanges in Azerbaijan, especially

JUDY SIEGEL

by computerizing them.

IBM would be involved in this effort with Bezek.

Tadiran and Bezek will investigate the possibility of establishing and operating service phone exchanges, such as Israel's 144 (information), 166 (repair service) and 188 (overseas operator).

Bezek chairman Moshe Haba

and managing director Yitzhak Kaul decided a joint team will be established with the Azerbaijani government to reach agreement on details.

The memorandum of understanding is expected to be signed during Hussein's visit this week.

A Bezek engineer will fly immediately after the ceremony to Azerbaijan to study field conditions, Bezek said yesterday.

Grumman gives nod to Northrop in bid war

BETHPAGE, N.Y. (Reuters) — Grumman Corp. yesterday accepted a \$2.17 billion takeover offer from an old competitor, Northrop Corp., apparently ending a high-flying month-long bidding war with defense aerospace giant Martin Marietta Corp.

Grumman, one of the oldest names in the defense business, said it is now prepared to merge with Northrop, a milestone in the post-Cold War consolidation of the shrinking arms industry.

"I'm sure there will be a smooth transition from the Grumman Corp. to the Northrop Grumman Corp.," said Grumman chairman Rens Caporali.

Defense contractors are either getting bigger to increase their survival odds or bailing out altogether. The conquer-or-perish ethic created a lively bidding war for Grumman, despite an outlook for diminished overall sales for all the companies involved.

"We continue to believe that

consolidation is the only sensible answer to the overcapacity in our industry, and the combined strengths of our two companies will make Northrop Grumman a formidable competitor," Caporali added.

But despite the talk of a stronger company, and the prospect for saving jobs, analysts said the decision turned on who would offer the most hard cash for Grumman.

Northrop, whose initial interest was seen as unwelcome, won Grumman's hand with a final \$2-a-share sweetener in the final round. Grumman told its shareholders to accept Northrop's \$62-a-share takeover offer after Martin Marietta stood pat with a \$55 deal that Grumman's board had approved March 6.

"An increase of \$7 a share over the original offer is an excellent deal for our shareholders, and we're pleased to have four weeks of uncertainty by us," said Caporali.

Martin Marietta, in a statement, said it will not increase its merger offer because it would not be in the interests of its shareholders. But it continued to argue that its bid for Grumman was superior.

Martin Marietta and Grumman had announced a definitive merger agreement March 7 and Bethesda, Maryland-based Martin Marietta followed up with a \$55 per share tender offer for Grumman worth \$1.9b.

But it was subsequently learned that Grumman had been talking to Los Angeles-based Northrop for much of 1993.

Grumman turned to Martin Marietta only when those talks failed to reach any agreement. Northrop countered Martin Marietta's offer with a \$60 per share offer of its own worth just over \$2b.

Wall Street arbitrageurs have predicted all along that Grumman will be sold to the highest bidder.

Local budget deficit hits NIS 1.3b. in March

NEIL COHEN

THE government's deficit in its local budgetary activity was NIS 1.298 billion last month.

Deputy accountant-general Avissar Cohen said the sharp rise in the deficit was due to NIS 800 million in advanced salaries for Pessah.

The state's deficit in its local activity since the beginning of the year is NIS 32m.

The net deficit in local financing resulted in a cash outflow of NIS 450m. Total outflow as a result of government budgetary activity was NIS1.748b. State local expenses were NIS 9.482b., while revenues totaled NIS 8.184b.

Local capital raising, via the capital market and privatization sales, resulted in an outflow of NIS 340m. Total expenditure was NIS 21.3b., which was almost exactly balanced by total revenues.

Cohen said the NIS 2.3b. increase in revenues and expenses last month was due to the repayment of National Insurance Institute bonds and the subsequent reinvestment of the monies.

Revenues of about NIS 200m. from the conversion of warrants on Bank Leumi shares were received on April 1 and will be included in the April revenues.

Teva buys stake in French firm

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

TEVA Pharmaceutical Industries has purchased a 34 percent stake in the French-based Prographarm International for \$6.9 million.

Prographarm, which is engaged in sustained released pharmaceuticals and coding technology, completed the financial year ending March 31, 1994 with \$17.5m. in total sales.

Teva told the stock exchange it is already cooperating with Prographarm to develop sustained released pharmaceuticals.

The cooperation has already led to the sale of Diltiazem, which Lemmon Company - Teva's US subsidiary - began marketing at the end of last year, the announce-

ment said.

Teva CEO Eli Hurvitz told reporters about one month ago that the company is in advanced negotiations with groups in Europe to acquire and build distribution networks for its generic and ethical pharmaceutical products.

Hurvitz said the company intends to increase its presence in Western Europe.

Teva's potential partners are also working with the firm to open up networks in Eastern Europe, said Hurvitz.

Teva completed the year with a rise in net profit to \$57.5m. from \$31.7m. Total sales rose to \$502m. from \$395m.

State plans sale of Israel Shipyards

Government Companies Authority also hopes to sell 50% of Shikun Ufituah soon

NEIL COHEN

THE Government Companies Authority will offer for sale Israel Shipyards, which has been in temporary receivership since 1986.

The state owns 100 percent of the company.

Meanwhile, the authority hopes to sell 50% of construction company Shikun Ufituah to a private investor soon, Channel One's *Mabat* news program reported last night.

The rest of the company would then be floated on the stock exchange.

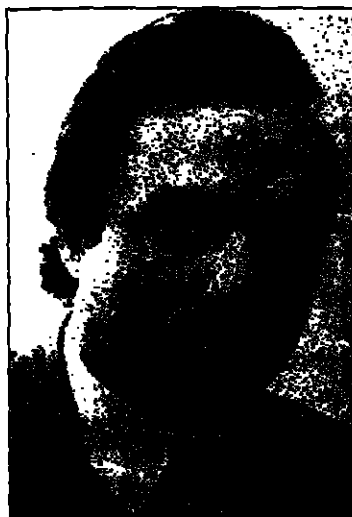
The company's recent stock exchange flotation was canceled at the last minute after its underwriters withdrew.

Those interested in acquiring Israel Shipyards are requested to inform the authority by May 5.

The government's decision stipulates that any purchaser must uphold the workers' rights of the existing labor agreements and maintain the company as a shipyard.

Israel Shipyards designs and builds marine craft for both civilian and military purposes, such as tugboats and multi-purpose craft. It also provides storage and maintenance of craft.

Government Companies Authority managing director Yossi Nitzani said the government hopes



Yossi Nitzani: Hopes to complete Israel Shipyards sale by end of the year. (Rabanimim Israel)

to complete the sale by the end of the year.

The sale will be subject to the approval of the Knesset finance committee and the Jerusalem District Court, which will have to revoke the order appointing a temporary receiver.

Israel Shipyards' debts of approximately \$150 million, including both principal and interest, will be written off prior to the conclusion of the sale.

Electra purchases French air-conditioning manufacturer

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ELECTRA Consumer Products has acquired the French-based L'Air Conditionne, the largest domestic air-conditioning manufacturer in Europe, for \$15 million.

Elco chairman Gershon Zalkind announced yesterday.

Elco is the parent company of the Electra Group.

According to the agreement, Electra will pay \$6m. for fixed assets and goodwill and about \$9m. in current assets (inventory and receivables).

Electra has already paid the first installment of \$6m., and will spread the remaining installments from the third quarter of 1993 to the first quarter of 1995.

The Mergers & Acquisitions division of La Compagnie Financiere Edmond De Rothschild assisted Electra throughout the acquisition phases.

Electra has re-named the French company L'Air Conditionne - Electra. The company has a 40,000 square meter factory and 410 workers.

Zalkind said a French company

is negotiating with Electra the possibility of acquiring 30 percent of L'Air Conditionne's share capital. Zalkind refused to provide additional information regarding the negotiations.

He said L'Air Conditionne, which was acquired from the company's receiver, has entered into receivership as a result of cash flow problems.

He stressed that the company was purchased without debt. L'Air Conditionne is known in Europe under the name of Electra.

The company reached its peak in 1990, when it had sales of \$178m. Last year, sales fell to \$83m.

"Since the season has started late, our sales budget for 1994 is \$55m," said Zalkind. "According to the budget, we expect losses of between \$1m. and \$1.5m. this year."

He said Electra expects to make a profit by 1996.

Zalkind said L'Air Conditionne complements Electra's products and markets, mainly in France, Germany and England.

Elco purchased 82% of Electra from Cial about two years ago, and since then the company has significantly expanded its activities.

Electra manufactures and distributes air-conditioning systems and fans.

Last October, Electra purchased Spanish-based Johnson, a company engaged mainly in marketing, and about one month ago the company established a marketing firm in Italy called Electra Consumer Products - Italy.

Zalkind said Electra is in advanced negotiations to establish an air-conditioning production plant in China in partnership with another firm.

Since last September Electra has raised NIS 60m. from the issue of shares and warrants in two public offerings. The proceeds of the issues will be used to increase Electra's business worldwide.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Report - Israel still not competitive in world markets: The country's ability to compete in world markets has not improved in the past year, according to the annual report of the Israel Institute of Productivity, published today.

The report notes the country's trade deficit is growing, with imports increasing at the rate of one percent a month (not including diamonds). Exports during the second half last year stood at the same level as during the first half. This bodes ill for the prospects of economic growth, the report says.

Institute director-general Yosef Duriel said the "investment balance" also continues to be negative, as more dollars are leaving the country for investment abroad than are being invested here by foreigners. Moreover, commissions charged on investments made through the stock exchange siphoned off enough funds to create 1,000 new jobs, Duriel said.

Net production per worker was worth \$39,000, compared to \$57,000 per worker in Japan and \$69,100 in Switzerland.

Foreign currency reserves rise \$684 million: The nation's foreign currency reserves rose \$684 million last month to \$6.84 billion, the Bank of Israel reported.

The increase was mainly due to the government's raising of capital backed by the US loan guarantees and sales of foreign currency by the private business sector. This increase was partly offset by transfers abroad of foreign currency from bank deposits at the Bank of Israel and state payments abroad.

Investment Center approves 12 projects: The Industry and Trade Ministry's Investment Center has approved 12 investment proposals at a total investment of \$11.5 million. Five proposals with a planned investment of \$9.5m. were canceled after they were not implemented. The proposals approved should create more than 100 new jobs.

Dollar falls 0.2% against shekel in March: The currency basket strengthened by 0.6 percent against the shekel last month, while the dollar fell 0.2%. The German mark rose 2.5%, the French franc 2% and the yen 1.6%. The British pound weakened 0.2%.

Mag sets up marketing firm in Dusseldorf with German partners: Mag, a knitwear company, has established a marketing network in Dusseldorf in partnership with two German firms. Magma Collection will market Mag's knitwear in Western Europe under the Magma Line label.

Mag managing director Ron Bensinger said the company was founded in partnership with two leading businessmen in Germany's fashion sector. Mag controls 52 percent of the shares, while the German partners each have a 24% stake.

Sales of Bezek's competitors total \$3.1 billion: Bezek's competitors that offer telecommunications services on the private market said their sales total \$3.1 billion annually - double that of Bezek's \$1.5b. Solan Communications head Ya'acov Solan said at the founding conference of private telecommunications suppliers that the government should allow private entrepreneurs to compete freely with Bezek.

The private companies supplied data communications, cable TV broadcasts, wireless communications (including cellular phones), beepers, fax services, overseas calls and satellite services. They employ 21,000 workers, compared to 10,000 people working for Bezek.

Haifa Chemicals deal gives 10% rise to workers: The Histadrut and the workers committee at Haifa Chemicals last week signed a new collective work agreement with the company's management. Under the new agreement, workers are to receive more than a 10 percent pay increase. They also agreed there will be no layoffs when the company's installations, damaged during the recent fire, are repaired.

Eliyahu Insurance reports 184% growth in net profits

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ELIYAHU Insurance company reported a 184 percent growth in net profits last year to NIS 5.39 million from NIS 1.9m.

The sharp rise was mainly due to the growth in earnings from non-life insurance. Total premiums from these activities increased 137% to NIS 237.6m.

Company chairman Shlomo Eliyahu said the sharp rise in premiums was due to tariffs which were about 15% lower than prevailing market prices.

He said most insurance companies charge high tariffs in the non-life insurance sector to compensate for losses incurred as a result of strong competition in previous years.

Eliyahu's net profits from non-life insurance increased to NIS 8.6m. from NIS 602,000. The company also reported a significant rise in number of claims to NIS 134m. from NIS 47m.

Management and commission expenses rose to NIS 61m. from NIS 40m.

Eliyahu said profits from life insurance activities fell to

NIS 1.16m. from NIS 6.7m. Total premiums from these activities rose to NIS 43m. from NIS 38m. Earnings from investments in life insurance increased to NIS 17.25m. from NIS 16.36m.

The fall in earnings from the life insurance portfolio was blamed on a rise in reserves against kibbutzim's life insurance and expenses associated with infrastructure.

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United States of America

Acting by and through the
United States Agency for International Development

Issued by

The State of Israel

The Guaranteed Notes constitute obligations of the State of Israel, guaranteed by the United States of America, acting through the United States Agency for International Development, as to payment of 100% of principal and interest, or maturity amount, due thereon. Each such guarantee will be entitled to the full faith and credit of the United States of America.

\$121,500,000 6.000% Current Coupon Guaranteed Notes, Class 3-A, Due February 15, 1999
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The Current Coupon Guaranteed Notes, Class 3-A and Class 3-B are offered by the Underwriters named below.

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CS First Boston

Morgan Stanley & Co.

Incorporated

Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc.

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Salomon Brothers Inc

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\$333,063,870 6.800% Current Coupon Guaranteed Notes, Class 3-D, Due February 15, 2012
\$1,158,024,000 Zero Coupon Guaranteed Notes, Class 3-Z, Due Semiannually from August 15, 2012 through February 15, 2024

The Current Coupon Guaranteed Notes, Class 3-C and Class 3-D and the Zero Coupon Guaranteed Notes are offered by the Underwriters named below.

Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc.

CS First Boston

Morgan Stanley & Co.

Incorporated

Lehman Brothers

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Salomon Brothers Inc

March 1994

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (4.4.94)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	3.125	3.500	4.000
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.750	3.275	4.125
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.025	4.025	4.075
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.125	3.000	3.000
Yen (10 million yen)	0.825	0.825	0.750

(Please verify higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (31.3.94)	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	BAHANNOTES	Rep. Rates*
Currency basket	3.150	3.220	3.211
U.S. dollar	2.9448	2.9894	3.00
German mark	1.7818	1.7867	1.81
Pound sterling	4.2888	4.2273	4.22
French franc	0.5165	0.5227	0.52
Japanese yen (100)	2.9547	2.9561	0.53
Dutch florin	1.9572	1.9584	1.94
Swiss franc	2.0201	2.0195	2.02
Swedish krona	0.3757	0.3812	0.37
Norwegian krona	0.4051	0.4108	0.40
Denish krona	0.4680	0.4643	0.46
Finnish mark	0.5383	0.5409	0.54
Canadian dollar	2.1272	2.1572	0.55
Australian dollar	2.0559	2.0560	2.05
S. African rand	0.5465	0.5508	0.54
Belgian franc (10)	0.9550	0.9581	0.95
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8048	2.8288	2.80
Italian lire (1000)	2.2112	2.2228	2.21
Jordanian dinar	1.8288	1.8388	1.79
Egyptian pound	—	—	4.07
ECU (unit)	3.3848	3.4427	0.90
Irish punt	2.2112	2.2228	2.21
Spanish peseta (100)	2.1854	2.1858	2.18

* These rates vary according to bank. — Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Key Representative Rates

US dollar	NIS 2.9690	Change
Sterling	NIS 4.4075	---
Mark	NIS 1.7784	---

APM says production index still going up

TEMPE, Ariz. (Reuters) - The National Association of Purchasing Management said yesterday that its manufacturing index rose for the seventh month in a row in March, as the number of businesses reporting improved activity was the highest since last October.

The group of purchasing managers also said that the overall economy grew at the same strong pace in March as in February.

The association said its manufacturing index increased to 56.7 last month, up slightly from 56.6 in February.

"The economy continued to grow in March, stabilizing at about the same rate of growth as in February," said Robert Bretz, chairman of the National Association of Purchasing Management's Business Survey Committee.

"Weather-related problems, which plagued supplier deliveries and production in February, faded away in March," he said.

It was the latest sign of a strengthening economy, following a report from the U.S. Labor Department Friday that a whopping 456,000 jobs were created last month, while the unemployment rate was steady. The growth in new jobs in March was the highest in 6½ years in the first official report on the economy's progress for the month.

The purchasing managers also reported steady improvement in the economy in March. Bretz said that continued strong growth of orders and very low inventories "should sustain solid economic growth for the immediate future."

The purchasing managers' report showed a slight easing of price pressures, although it had little impact in a bond market already rattled by two credit-tightening moves by the Federal Reserve the past two months. The purchasing managers' price component, which gauges inflationary pressures, fell to 64.2 from 67.0, as the price of prices, increases, slowed from the level in February and January.

It said that of the 20 manufacturing industries, 14 reported an improvement over February, the largest number since October 1993.

New orders edged up slightly while the backlog of orders was higher for the sixth straight month, maintaining the rate of growth seen in February, the association said.

The group's inventory index plunged to 41.4 percent from 44.4 percent in February, its lowest since December 1991 when it stood at 39%. But the association noted that purchasers were still cautious, as they continued to resist building inventories.

The association said its production index surged to 64.0 in March from 58.7 in February, mirroring weather-related problems.

GM may build new minicar in the US

DETROIT (Reuters) - General Motors may build a new European-style minicar in the United States, according to a report published yesterday.

Sources at GM told *Automotive News* the new car would be designed by GM's Adam Opel subsidiary and GM's Lansing Automotive Division, which supervises small car production.

The car, which would be smaller than any model currently offered by GM, would be built at GM's Wilmington, Delaware plant. The factory was slated to close in 1996, but last week GM said it is thinking about building a new vehicle there.

GM officials were not immediately available to comment on the report, but last week the automaker said the new vehicle that is currently under consideration for Wilmington would be an entirely new product.

Automotive News said the study is expected to be completed in November.

Minicars, which are smaller than subcompact models like the Geo Metro that are sold in the United States, are popular in Europe, where fuel costs are three to six times higher than in the United States. GM does not have a minicar in its lineup right now.

According to the Detroit-based trade publication, the new car would be sold on four continents and serve as a replacement for the Pontiac LeMans in the United States.

If GM approves the minicar program, the plant's 2,800 workers would avoid layoffs, providing the company could come to terms with the United Auto Workers Union on new work rules.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading			Two-sided trading		
Name	Price	% Change	Name	Price	% Change
Bank Leumi	117.00	0.7	Bank Leumi	117.00	0.7
Bank Hapoalim	117.00	0.7	Bank Hapoalim	117.00	0.7
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Mac. Tel Aviv wins State Cup

JOEL GORDIN

MACCABI Tel Aviv took the basketball State Cup for the 28th time last night, beating Hapoel Tel Aviv 64-53 in a hard-fought, high-standard derby final at Yad Eliyahu.

More than 9,000 spectators saw President Weizman award the cup and winners' medals to the victors, who are well set to achieve the "double" this year. They finished the league seven points ahead of Hapoel which is ranked second. The Final Four playoffs start on Thursday.

Hapoel coach Zvi Sherf caught Maccabi off-guard by opening with bench-warmer Roy Shleidesky and Shimon Amsalem, primarily to soak up the early fouls. Hapoel's tight man-to-man defense did not allow Maccabi to play the running game at which it excels and it was Hapoel which dictated the pace of the game.

However, Hapoel was unable to translate this advantage into points, mainly due to poor shooting from both Tomer Steinhilber and David Thirkill. Two excellent steals and a brilliant three-pointer by Motti Daniel took Maccabi to the halftime mark ahead 31-27.

Maccabi started the second half on fire. Cast-iron defense was met

by coordinated attack and, with Daniel and Doron Jamchee leading the scoring spree, Maccabi went ahead 45-33. However, Steinhilber finally found his shooting form and his quick six points in a row brought Hapoel back into the game (52-49) with seven minutes to go. From there, Hapoel made a number of spirited efforts to even things up, but each time the team came close to Maccabi's score, a bad mistake sent Maccabi back in the lead.

With two minutes to go, Maccabi was 58-53 ahead and the capacity crowd rose to its feet expecting a thrilling end. However, Hapoel folded in a series of lapses of possession and defensive lapses and Guy Goodes scored six points at the end to drive home the win.

For Maccabi, a superb Daniel scored 16 points, a disappointing Alexis 13 with Jamchee and Goodes adding 11 each. For Hapoel, David Thirkill made 13, Steinhilber 12 and Nana Markovic 11.

In the curtain-raiser, Elitzur Holon won the women's State Cup for the 14th time, easily beating Elitzur Ramla 92-74. Holon captain Orly Grossman scored 24, veteran Anat Dreiger 20 and Limor Mizrahi 15.

Portland beats Nets to make playoffs



EAST RUTHERFORD (AP) — Portland clinched its 11th straight playoff berth Sunday as Clyde Drexler hit five free throws in the final 26 seconds, leading the Trail Blazers to a 109-105 victory over the New Jersey Nets.

Drexler scored 25 of his 34 points in the second half as the Trail Blazers rallied from a 10-point halftime deficit to beat the Nets for the fourth straight time.

Drexler's biggest points came with 26 seconds to go when he hit two free throws after being fouled by P.J. Brown on a scramble for a loose ball. That put the Trail Blazers ahead 104-102.

Derrick Coleman scored 29 points and Anderson 25 for the Nets. Strickland had 18 points for Portland, which has made the playoffs 16 of 17 years.

Bulls 96, Pistons 93
Scottie Pippen had 26 points, nine rebounds and nine assists as Chicago held off a late Detroit rally for its fourth straight victory.

Isiah Thomas scored 17 points and Cadillac Anderson grabbed 15 rebounds for the Pistons, who were outscored 25-6 from the free-throw line. The victory gave the Bulls a sweep of the five-game season series with the Pistons and was Chicago's seventh straight against Detroit over the last



COURT BULLY — Chicago's Scottie Pippen drives into Detroit forward David Wood for a foul. (AP)

two seasons.
Pippen, who had 10 points in the third quarter, hit a pair of free throws in the final seconds to send the Bulls into the fourth quarter with a 76-63 advantage.

Rockets 106, Clippers 98
Hakeem Olajuwon had 39 points, 11 rebounds and six blocked shots as Houston beat Los Angeles for the eighth straight time and completed its second consecutive season sweep.

Sunday's results:
Chicago 96, Detroit 93
Portland 109, New Jersey 105
Houston 106, LA Clippers 98
Boston 135, Philadelphia 112
LA Lakers 102, Atlanta 89
Phoenix 106, Denver 98

Man. Utd stays 3 points clear of Blackburn

LONDON (Renter) — Manchester United stayed three points clear of Blackburn Rovers in the race for the English title when both sides scored contrasting victories in local derbies yesterday.

United, beaten 2-0 by Blackburn on Saturday, pulled off a far-from-convincing 3-2 victory over Oldham at Old Trafford, while Blackburn pushed Everton even closer to relegation with an emphatic 3-0 win at Goodison Park.

With both sides having six matches to play, Manchester United moved on to 79 points and Blackburn 76. Newcastle, which was held to a 0-0 draw at home by Chelsea, is third on 65 points.

It was a bad day for most of the clubs at the wrong end of the table. Tottenham and Southampton joined Everton and Oldham as the day's big losers, with Tottenham going down 4-1 at home to West Ham and Southampton, which, with bottom-placed Swindon is beginning to look doomed, losing 1-0 at home to fellow-stragglers Manchester City.

Sheffield United picked up a point in a 1-1 home draw with Arsenal to stretch its unbeaten run to eight games, although it is still in 20th place.

Leeds scored a big victory, winning 4-0 at Queen's Park Rangers although play was held up when around 200 angry QPR fans stormed onto the pitch seconds before halftime.

The fans were protesting over the way chairman Richard Thompson has been running the club and staged a sit-in on the halfway line which took more than 15 minutes to clear.

Tottenham, like Everton, is usually involved in the race for honors, but like Everton, the London side is now deeply involved in the fight to avoid the drop.

The club seemed to be pulling away from danger with wins at Ipswich and Norwich in the last week, but was thrust straight back into the mire by losing 4-1 at home to West Ham, which is now five points clear of its London rivals.

Two goals from Trevor Marley, who nearly joined Tottenham on transfer deadline day on March 24, and others from Steve Jones and Mike Marsh gave West Ham the points.

There was another crucial relegation clash at Southampton, which went into the game against Manchester City without a win for six matches. Ninety minutes later, their winless streak was extended to seven as German substitute Stefan Kari scored City's relegation worries with the only goal of the game two minutes from time.

PREMIER LEAGUE: Aston Villa, 9, Norwich 0; Everton 0, Blackburn 2; Ipswich 0, Coventry 2; Manchester United 3, Oldham 2; Newcastle 0, Chelsea 0; Queens Park Rangers 0, Leeds 4; Sheffield United 1, Arsenal 1; Southampton 0, Manchester City 1; Tottenham 1, West Ham 4; Wimbledon 1, Liverpool 1.

DIVISION ONE: Barnsley 0, Notts County 3; Bolton 1, Portsmouth 1; Grimsby 2, Luton 0; Nottingham Forest 0, Bristol City 0; Oxford 4, Wolves 0; Stoke 1, Charlton 0.

DIVISION TWO: Bradford 1, Brentford 0; Bristol Rovers 3, Wrexham 1; Burnley 5, Barnet 0; Cardiff 2, Huddersfield 2; Exeter 0, Cambridge United 0; Hartlepool 1, Plymouth 1; Hartlepool 0, Hull 1; Leyton Orient 2, Port Vale 3; York 2, Blackpool 1.

DIVISION THREE: Chesterfield 1, Scunthorpe 1; Colchester 1, Scarborough 2; Crawley 2, Carlisle 3; Darlington 1, Doncaster 3; Gillingham 2, Chester 2; Lincoln 0, Shrewsbury 1; Preston 1, Northampton 1; Rochdale 2, Wycombe 2.

Mac. Haifa-Mac. TA 'grudge match' center of State Cup action

ORI LEWIS

SOCCER fans' eyes will be turned to Kiryat Eliezer this evening as Maccabi Haifa takes on Maccabi Tel Aviv in the last of four major clashes between the two top teams of the season, this time in the State Cup.

National League leaders Haifa and second-placed Tel Aviv will face off in the last-16 stage of the State Cup, a clash which everybody, including the local police, are taking more seriously than ever.

The taunts between the two clubs' managements, players and supporters, have over the past weeks reached fever pitch, with the height of tension coming after Tel Aviv's Meir Melika's tackle with Haifa's Roman Petz, in which the latter broke his leg in the last match between the two clubs three weeks ago.

The charges and insults thrown from both camps would probably have subsided had it not been for today's match.

But Haifa police have promised to be out in full force to prevent any violence.

The match kicks off at 6 pm, but unlike the last three meetings between the two sides, this one will not be televised live.

Other matches in the last-16 are: Hapoel Tel Aviv vs. Hapoel Tiberias, Bloomfield at 6 pm; Bnei Yehuda vs. Maccabi Petaq Tikva, Teddy Stadium at 6:30 pm.

The rest of the matches will kick off at 4 pm, they are: Bnei Yehuda vs. Hapoel Kfar Sava, Batavia Quarter; Hapoel Holon vs. Maccabi Herzliya, Holon; Hapoel Ashdod vs. Hapoel Petaq Tikva, Ashdod; Ironi Ashdod vs. Maccabi Yarnat, Ashdod.

The eighth match in the draw (Hapoel Haifa vs. Maccabi Netanya) will be held tomorrow at Kiryat Eliezer at 3 pm.

Lemieux leads Penguins over Bruins, 6-2

RICHFIELD, Ohio (AP) — Mario Lemieux scored his 13th and 14th goals and added two assists as the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Boston Bruins 6-2 to keep sole possession of first place in the NHL's Northeast Division on Sunday.

The Penguins went 6-0 against Boston this year, their first-ever season sweep of the Bruins, Pittsburgh, which is fighting to keep the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs, has won the last nine meetings of the two teams dating to last season.

Kevin Stevens also scored twice for Pittsburgh, giving him 40 goals for the season. Goaltender Tom Barrasso made 40 saves.

Blues 3, Red Wings 3
Curtis Joseph made 47 saves, helping visiting St. Louis tie the game.

With the point, first-place Detroit moved four points ahead of Toronto in the Central Division. Both teams have five games to play.

The Red Wings outshot St. Louis 39-17 in the last 45 minutes, but couldn't solve Joseph, who has a career mark of 6-2-1 against Detroit.

Stars 6, Oilers 1
Wayne Gretzky had three assists and the Los Angeles Kings capitalized on three second-period goals en route to victory in a neutral-site game.

Gretzky, the NHL's all-time scoring leader and the points leader this season, assisted on goals by Rob Blake and Jari Kurri in the second period and Pat Conacher in the third.

Luc Robitaille added his 40th goal of the season. Mike Donnelly had three assists and Alex Zimnik had two assists in the second period and a goal in the third for Los Angeles. After allowing Fredrik Olausson's goal about eight minutes into the game, Los Angeles goaltender Robb Stauber made 35 saves.

Blackhawks 2, Flames 1
Ed Belfour, returning from a five-game injury layoff, made 36 saves as host Chicago ended a six-game winless streak.

Belfour outdueling Mike Vernon, who made 30 saves, as the Blackhawks ended a 0-5-1 skid. Belfour, who suffered a strained hip against Detroit in a 2-1 loss on March 22, has a 7-2-1 career mark against the Flames.

Second-period goals by Gary Suter, recently obtained from Calgary, and another newcomer, Paul Ysebaert, helped Chicago win for the first time since March 18.

The Flames, losers to Chicago in all four games this year, are now 0-8-1 against the Blackhawks since October 24, 1991.

Stars 6, Capitals 3
Mike Modano got two goals and newcomer Pelle Eklund and Mike Craig scored 37 seconds apart in a four-goal second period that lifted Dallas past Washington.

The victory gave the Stars 92 points, tying them with Toronto for second-best in the Western Conference.

Sunday's results:
St. Louis 3, Detroit 3
Pittsburgh 6, Boston 2
Dallas 4, Washington 3
Los Angeles 6, Edmonton 1
Chicago 2, Calgary 1

Atlantic Division
W L T Pts Gf Ga
49 23 7 105 282 217
x-New Jersey
Washington
Florida
Philadelphia
N.Y. Islanders
Tampa Bay

Central Division
W L T Pts Gf Ga
44 27 5 96 331 280
x-Detroit
x-Toronto
x-Dallas
x-St. Louis
x-Chicago
Winnipeg

Pacific Division
W L T Pts Gf Ga
41 25 13 96 287 287
x-California
x-Vancouver
San Jose
Anaheim
Los Angeles
Edmonton

Northwest Division
W L T Pts Gf Ga
41 25 13 96 287 287
x-Montreal
x-Buffalo
x-Boston
Quebec
Hartford
Ottawa

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x-Vancouver
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1994 baseball season starts with a bang

NEW YORK (AP) — Suffice to say, there was plenty of interest in yesterday's baseball openers.

A day after only 32,803 fans saw St. Louis and Cincinnati start the regular season at Riverfront Stadium, sellouts were expected throughout the majors.

More than 80,000 fans were to turn out in Denver, where the Colorado Rockies began their final season at Mile High Stadium with a game against Philadelphia.

As always, there were no tickets

Lankford opens with homer, Cardinals beat Reds 6-4

RAY Lankford opened baseball's 125th season with a home run, and Bob Tewksbury pitched six innings and doubled home the go-ahead runs Sunday night as the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Reds 6-4 in Cincinnati.

Lankford's was the first season-opening homer since April 6, 1982, when Darrell Porter hit a three-run drive off Nolan Ryan at Houston.

Tewksbury, a career .147 hitter, hit a two-run double in the fourth off Jose Rijo that put the Cardinals ahead to stay 5-3.

Tewksbury gave up seven hits and four runs. Vicente Palacios struck out Reggie Sanders to end a bases-loaded threat in the seventh, and Mike Perez pitched the ninth for a save.

left at SkyDome in Toronto, where the two-time World Series champion Blue Jays played Chicago in a meeting of last year's AL playoff teams, and none were left at Camden Yards in Baltimore, where the new-look Orioles played Kansas City, minus George Brett.

President Clinton helped dedicate a new baseball stadium, throwing out the opening pitch in the Cleveland Indians season opening game with the Seattle Mariners.

Clinton, throwing left-handed, made a slow, looping pitch to Indians' starting catcher Sandy Alomar, who easily snagged the president's pitch.

At Yankee Stadium, Joe Di-



FIRST PITCH — Cincinnati pitcher Jose Rijo delivers the first pitch of the season. (AP)

Maggio was to throw out the first ball when New York played the Texas Rangers, without Nolan Ryan and with Will Clark. At Fenway Park, Nancy Kerrigan was to make the ceremonial toss before Roger Clemens and the Boston

Red Sox played Detroit.

Eddie Murray set a record for games played as a first baseman when he took the field for the Cleveland Indians' inaugural game at Jacobs Field.

It was Murray's 2,369th game at

first, surpassing the mark set by Jake Beckley from 1888-1907. Murray carried the first base bag off the field after the top half of the first inning.

The Los Angeles Dodgers had some anxious moments Sunday when Darryl Strawberry did not show up for an exhibition game and was missing until late that night. General manager Fred Claire did not say why Strawberry left the team, but was not satisfied with the player's explanation.

The game between St. Louis and Cincinnati began baseball's new era of realignment. Those teams are now in the NL Central.

The White Sox won the AL West last season and have moved into the AL Central. They'll take on the Blue Jays, trying to become the first team since the 1972-73-74 Oakland A's to win three straight titles. To reach the postseason, all they'll need is the league's top second-place finish to win the wild card.

Barry Bonds, trying to win an unprecedented third straight MVP award — and fourth overall — was to lead San Francisco against visiting Pittsburgh and Zane Smith, a three-game winner last season.

The Phillies and the three other 1993 division champions all begin the year missing key players. Philadelphia will start without first baseman John Kruk, being treated for testicular cancer; the White Sox are without reliever Scott Radinsky, who has Hodgkin's disease; Toronto is without closer Duane Ward, who has biceps tendinitis; and Atlanta does not have left fielder Ron Gant, who broke his leg during the winter and was released.

Gant and George Bell are among two of the big-name players who begin the 1994 season without a team. Michael Jordan, the big story in spring training, didn't make the White Sox, but will begin his pro career Friday night for Double-A Birmingham.

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England cricketers in control

ST GEORGE'S, Grenada (Renter) — England was 143-2 at tea on the third day of its four-day match against a West Indies Board XI yesterday.

In Sunday's action, West Indian middle-order batsman Roland Holder pushed his claims for a

Test place and cast more misery on England with an unbeaten century.

Holder, who has appeared in five one-day internationals but has yet to make his Test debut, made an unbeaten 108 to lead his side of international hopefuls to 260.

Rabin to testify behind closed doors at Shamgar Commission tomorrow

Kiryat Arba security officer: Driver who took Goldstein to cave disobeyed orders

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin is due to appear before the Shamgar Commission investigating the Hebron massacre tomorrow. Rabin is expected to testify in camera, at his request.

The prime minister had opposed the setting up of the commission, but bowed to a cabinet majority that pressed for its establishment.

The commission is not expected to hold further public hearings for the time being. After its deliberations, the commission has the right to call persons to testify on points that need clarification. Those called are permitted to bring legal counsel with them.

It is unclear whether the commission will subpoena Miriam Goldstein, widow of Baruch Goldstein who perpetrated the massacre. She earlier refused to testify.

At yesterday morning's session, Kiryat Arba's chief security officer, Haim Sherf, told the commission that the driver of the jeep that had carried Goldstein to the Machpela Cave had disobeyed orders. The jeep is permitted to leave Kiryat Arba only if it is warranted for security purposes, he testified.

BATSHEVA TSUR and Itim

Baruch Segal, a police ballistics expert, told the commission he had collected all the objects left behind in the cave, after they had been filmed. Another expert, Leor Nedivi, said ballistic tests confirmed that 109 cartridges had come from Goldstein's Gilon rifle and five from the guns of two of the soldiers stationed there. One cartridge was unidentified, he said.

The ballistics experts said there was no indication of shrapnel from a hand grenade or bomb. Egyptian doctors who had visited the wounded in the hospital said they suspected shrapnel wounds.

Appearing before the commission at its afternoon session, the director of Jerusalem's Mokedes Hospital said that the wounded were not brought to the hospital in orderly fashion after the massacre, blaming the army for preventing ambulances from getting through.

"This was either done purposely or because there is a lack of order," Dr. Amin Talaji said, adding that medical personnel are

constantly held up at IDF checkpoints and prevented from getting to work although they have permits.

"The occupation is responsible for the fact that there are no proper first aid facilities in the Hebron area," Talaji said, explaining why wounded were brought all the way to Jerusalem instead of receiving treatment on the spot. He confirmed that four persons had died on the way to Jerusalem.

Citing statistics, Talaji said that "there are 0.5 hospital beds per 1,000 persons in Hebron, compared with 4.2 in Jordan and 6 in Israel." He did not cite the source of the statistics.

Dr. Mahmud Abu Ramile, director of the private Al-Ha'alie Hospital in Hebron, said there had been "two waves" of dead and wounded on February 25. He said that 20 dead and 70 injured had arrived at the hospital by 8 a.m. "But then there was a second wave," he said.

"Soldiers on the rooftops with telescopes picked out people in the courtyard and start-

ed shooting at them. They aimed at the heads and necks of stonethrowers even though they couldn't be harmed by the stones. One man who donated blood was brought back 15 minutes later, dead." He said there was a total of four dead. "They stood on the rooftops choosing targets."

Justice Goldberg: For fun?

Abu Ramile: Yes.

Justice Meir Shamgar: How many people were in the courtyard?

Abu Ramile: More than 1,000. They came to donate blood, look for relatives, and give help in general.

Shamgar: In such a crowd, we could have expected 100 dead then... The soldiers testified that they were on the ground, trying to clear the way for rescue vehicles. They said they were attacked with blocks and burning tires and were in a life-threatening situation. Asked about turning down Israeli offers of help, Abu Ramile said that "they had not come at the right time."

"How can you let political considerations override humanitarian ones?" Goldberg asked.

Police probe Beersheba mayor's alleged fraud

AMIR ROZENBLIT

THREE Beersheba city treasurers have been questioned by the police fraud squad recently regarding alleged financial improprieties by Beersheba Mayor Yitzhak Rager.

The investigation is focusing on suspicions Rager simultaneously presented bills on many occasions for personal expenses to the municipality, the Beersheba Development Fund, and the Beersheba Fund, and occasionally did the same with receipts for expenses for purchases and services abroad. Police raided the offices of the municipality and the two funds, seizing hundreds of documents.

The fraud squad was apparently tipped off by municipality workers. In recent years, it has looked into a wide range of incidents connected to the municipality, including the transfer of funds to various groups. Reports have been received about alleged irregularities in the Beersheba Fund, and complaints that certain tenders have been awarded without following regulations. Recently it was discovered that

NIS 100,000 have been transferred to a group called "Jewish Arts and Communications," located in Bnei Brak, at Rager's specific request to then-city treasurer Meir Balvan, with the transfer signed by then-deputy treasurer and current treasurer Arye Untz. The transfer was made without the city council's approval.

The fact that both Balvan and Aviv Cohen, another former city treasurer, were questioned would seem to indicate that the police have documents relating to the period the two were in office, from 1989-1993.

Rager refused to discuss the investigation at a press conference at the Neot Midbar Hotel yesterday, where municipality officials offered details of the financial rehabilitation program the city promised the Finance and Interior ministries to implement. "I plan to call a press conference when the police investigation is completed to discuss the findings. Until then, I prefer not to discuss the matter," he said.

Meshulam ignores summons to appear for questioning by police

RAINE MARCUS

UZI Meshulam has refused to appear for questioning by police, after investigators presented him with a summons on Sunday.

The summons was part of an attempt by police to peacefully end the affair that began with last week's siege of the Yehud house where the self-styled "rabbi" Meshulam remains ensconced with his armed followers, and to avoid a raid on the house. Meshulam claims the title of rabbi, but has no formal ordination.

Scores of followers are still at the house. "Doomen" note every visitor and refuse entry to reporters or strangers. The front door, fence, and roof have been covered with canvas to block prying eyes and photographers.

Since the siege, Meshulam and his followers have built a succa in the garden and piled bricks on the roof.

A police presence is not visible, but Meshulam's supporters are convinced that their every move is being photographed.

"Go on, take photos," shouted one bearded follower, waving his fist in the air.

Meshulam also has cameras and loudspeakers on his roof. Anyone wanting to enter the house has to leave his identity card at the door and get permission from the rabbi.

"I came from Emmanuel to show solidarity," said Shmuel Ben-Shimon. "But after checking my identity card, he sent a message saying I couldn't enter."

One man close to the group said that Meshulam's brother had been approached by someone who threatened if the rabbi "doesn't back off, we will have him institutionalized in a mental hospital."

Neighbors said they hope police will put an end to Meshulam's escapades soon.

"Before the siege, Yehud was a quiet area - no criminals, no drugs. This lunatic is starting a reign of terror here," said one store owner. "They sing and shout through their loudspeakers, and when residents complain to the police, they are told that nothing can be done."

But police are confident that Meshulam and his followers will be arrested shortly.

Hebrew U students end strike, TAU action continues

HAIM SHAPIRO and Itim

THE strike by students at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem ended yesterday evening, after the student association reached an agreement with university officials regarding academic credit for fall semester courses in the Social Science Faculty.

The strike at Tel Aviv University, however, seemed likely to continue today. Late last night, TAU student representatives were meeting with university president Prof. Yoram Dinstein, but no agreements had been reached.

Under the agreement at Hebrew University, students will be given a "pass" grade and full academic credit for courses taken, with the exception of six introductory courses, in which students will have to be tested. Students who wish to take final exams in the courses may do so, and still retain the "pass" designation if unsatisfied with their grade.

In general, undergraduate grades will suffice for students wishing to go on for an MA degree, but should the faculty determine that a particular student should be retested in a particular course, only a minimal passing grade will be required.

Student Association chairman Ron Samual said there was no real difference between yesterday's agreement and the one reached with the students earlier, except "university officials forced the dean of the Social Science Faculty to accept all the clauses."

Earlier, hundreds of students gathered near the administration wing of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem yesterday but appeared to have decided not to take example from Sunday's rioting and vandalism at Tel Aviv University.

"We stopped the lectures and got the students out of the classrooms. Everyone who studies is concerned about going on for a further degree," said Michael Ben-Ezra, referring to the Social Sciences Faculty's earlier decision to have students wanting to pursue graduate degrees be tested in courses interrupted by the prolonged faculty strike.

Meanwhile, police said they plan to charge Tel Aviv University Student Association president Shlomo Boaz and several other students with disturbing the peace, threatening and attacking policemen, and disrupting traffic, during Sunday's riots at TAU.

Boaz and four other students who were held for questioning were released from custody late Sunday night, after police had earlier released 34 other students.

During the riots students caused serious damage to the administration building, to the university's telephone system, and to equipment in the Sackler Medical School.

There was no repeat of Sunday's violence on the TAU campus yesterday, where 150 policemen were on alert. Students instead celebrated their second day of boycotting classes with singing and dancing near the university entrance.

A spokesman for the students association said the students' strategy had changed, and that they were now preparing for a long but quiet strike.



Melanie Clore of Sotheby's London poses with Reuven Rubin's painting 'Vase and Mountains on the Horizon,' auctioned last night by Sotheby's in Tel Aviv for a record price (for a Rubin) of \$200,000. The painting was expected to sell for between \$100,000-150,000. (Israel News and Media)

Sheves: Ministries not helping to lower housing prices

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

PRIME Minister's Office Director-General Shimon Sheves yesterday charged the Housing and Finance ministries with not cooperating with government efforts to lower housing prices, due to what he called "wars of Gog and Magog, irrelevant to the issues at hand."

Sheves had to cancel a meeting yesterday of the interministerial team formulating a plan to lower housing prices, when the representatives of both ministries failed to show up. The meeting was rescheduled for next week.

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer had declared more than a year ago that his main goal is to reduce housing prices, but prices have continued to soar. Ten days ago, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin appointed Sheves head of an interministerial team charged with formulating a plan to lower housing prices.

Sheves yesterday charged the Finance Ministry with "refusing to cooperate and to provide answers for the citizens of the state, who deserve solutions to their plight." Sheves also noted that Housing Ministry Director-General Arye Mizrahi failed to come to yesterday's meeting, but sent his assistant, Eitan Cabel.

Sheves said Rabin has been

working for months with other ministers on finding ways to "stop the hikes in housing prices, to encourage building and open up bureaucratic bottlenecks and remove obstacles to promote projects in each ministry."

"There were considerable obstacles preventing the economy from developing properly, relating to regional committees for planning and construction and the coordination among the ministries," he said. "However, there are ministries that do not cooperate [with the team] and are not doing what they should be doing."

Neither Ben-Eliezer nor Shohat would relate to Sheves's accusations or explain why their representatives did not come to the meeting he had called. Labor sources hinted at tension between Sheves and Shohat over authority in economic matters.

Sources close to Ben-Eliezer said he has been working for more than a year on a plan to reduce housing costs and recently published such a plan with Shohat. The two discuss the issue every day, one source said, "and it is therefore not clear what Sheves means. If he has any problem with Ben-Eliezer, he should take it up with him. After all, they meet at cabinet sessions."

Labor, Yi'ud to form joint Histadrut list

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LABOR and Yi'ud yesterday decided to run on a joint list in the May 10 Histadrut elections.

Senior Histadrut sources denied the decision had anything to do with reports that Labor MK Haim Ramon is considering heading an independent list, and that he stands to gain more than 50 percent of the vote if he runs.

Teams appointed by each side are to formulate the agreement, reached by Histadrut Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld for Labor and Yi'ud leader Gonen Seggev, which is to be signed next Sunday, after being approved by Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zivli. Zivli is currently in the US.

Seggev said the fact that Yi'ud is a right-wing party should be no hindrance, since the Histadrut deals with socio-economic issues, not security and foreign affairs.

Seggev said he would like to see a reform in the Histadrut. "and when I raised the issue with Haberfeld, he agreed with me that change is needed. A small party has to give up some of its principles to influence and make a difference on other issues."

The Histadrut leadership was taken aback at the beginning of the week by reports that Ramon is considering heading his own

list. According to persistent rumors, Ramon would be supported by MK Amir Peretz and perhaps some other MKs, including Shmuel Avital. Both Ramon and Peretz refused to either deny or confirm this.

A press briefing with Haberfeld concerning Labor's Histadrut campaign elections was delayed until Ramon announces his intentions, reportedly due to a supporters' meeting tomorrow, so that Haberfeld could comment on this development as well.

Senior Labor sources in the Histadrut said that if Ramon heads an independent list, he would be reading himself out of the party. However, Avital said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would not necessarily expel Ramon and those who joined him, and that the issue would have to be decided by Labor's institutions.

The Likud's Histadrut campaign staff scoffed at Haberfeld's agreement with Seggev, calling it "an unsuccessful, unnatural imitation of the real partnership that of the Likud and Tsomet. Haberfeld's readiness to adopt a political refugee who commands no public support indicates an air of panic."

Treasury allocates NIS 40m. for war on poverty

SASHA SADAN

THE government yesterday approved the Treasury's allocation of NIS 40 million to the anti-poverty program proposed by Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs Ora Namir. The program, originally proposed last November, aims to raise 46,000 families above the poverty line.

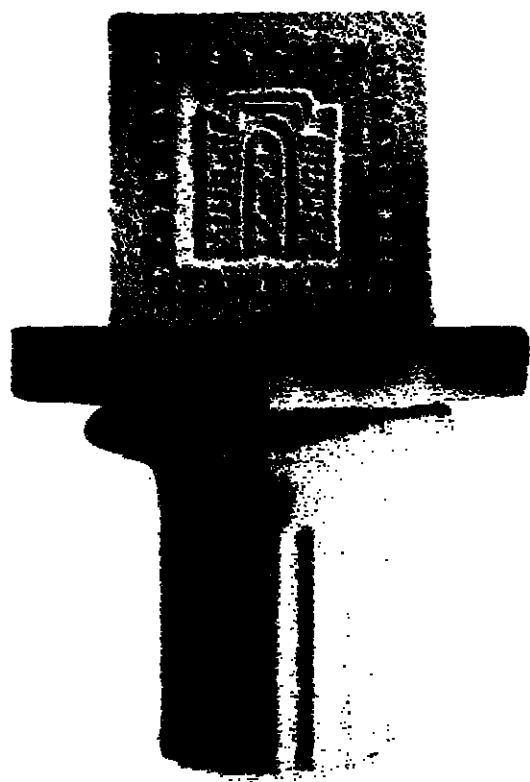
Finance Minister Avraham Shohat agreed to supply NIS 80m. of the NIS 335m. program, with the rest coming via the National Insurance Institute.

While Namir had hoped for an even larger program, Shohat's ministry opposed taxing the child allowances of upper-income families, saying it would lead to tax abuses.

The Treasury allocation will come from a 0.5 percent budget cut for government ministries, Shohat's office said. His spokesman said this would not affect the salaries of civil servants.

Namir has said her anti-poverty program will take a year to put fully into effect. Her office said the allocation was the sum it expected.

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